Wrestling MONTHLY

FIRST ISSUE
VOL. 1, NO. 1

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF WRESTLING

OCT. 71/ 60¢

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ALSO:

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1

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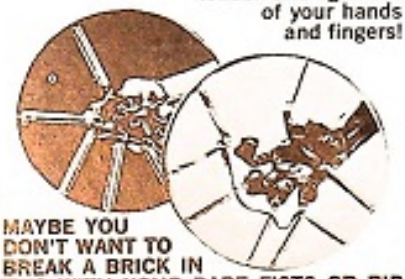

MAYBE YOU DON'T WANT TO BREAK A BRICK IN TWO WITH YOUR BARE FISTS OR RIP A PHONE BOOK IN HALF—BUT WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF YOU COULD?

Here's a brand new way . . . a fantastically successful system that turns your hands into fearsome, devastating arsenals of power! Based on centuries-old secrets of Japanese Killer Cults and a Space Age hand-building principle, my KILLER KARATE KRUSHER can make you into a two-fisted tank of power . . . able to take care of yourself . . . anytime . . . anywhere . . . in all situations! You'll never again fear any man or turn away from any challenge. ORDER IT TODAY! Only $9.95 postpaid.

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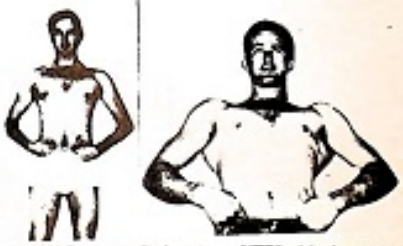
KARATE KRUSHER & COURSE

3 THE END OF THE SKINNY BODY

Drink on as much as 14 pounds in the next 14 days this delicious FUN way!



BEFORE—James Parker at a thin 158 pounds.

AFTER 14 days on the Crash-Weight Plan, Jim weighed 175 pounds.

GAINS 14 POUNDS IN 14 DAYS!

HEY YOU SKINNY GUYS! Thousands are doing it every day. WHY NOT YOU? Here's a totally new breed of nutritional "wildcat" drink that's guaranteed to put an end to your hungry-looking, muscle-poor body . . . through a new, scientifically-blended milkshake-tasting drink. **Crash-Weight Formula #7** Plan puts meat on your frame. Fleshes out your narrow, shallow chest, skinny arms and spindly legs. Nobody likes a bag of bones! With my proven **Crash-Weight Plan** you just drink 4 milk-shake-delicious glasses with your regular meals and take in an extra 3500 calories daily . . . to help you pile on the weight FAST! (It's the calories that count when you want to put on some handsome weight!) The nice thing about my weight-gain plan is that it's so easy to take. No complicated exercises to do. No bloating, heavy-as-lead foods to force into your system. The Formula #7 Plan does all the work . . . you just sit around, take it easy, be as lazy as you want—and in a few days you'll see measurable weight gains pile up! Check the coupon for the Plan and flavor you want to use to put an end to your skinny body. **Guaranteed to put weight on you or your money back.**

To add up to 14 pounds in the next 14 days you need:

- 14-day supply of **Crash-Weight Formula #7**
- 14-day supply of Appetite-Stimulating tablets, and

FREE Weight-Gaining Course. A 48-page illustrated guide crammed with step-by-step instructions in weight-gaining basics. PLUS 3 copies of Mr. America magazine, worth $1.80...yours FREE!

7-day supply: $8.00 • 14-day supply: $14.98

(Your choice of Chocolate or Vanilla flavor)

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FOR A WEEK'S SUPPLY & COURSE

BODY LOOK FOR THE '70'S!

Your Good Looks—Your Health—Your Virility—are Your responsibility. So Start NOW to use one or more of these "Body Shapers For the 70's". Shake up your physical fitness program and Light Up the 70's!

4 Joe Weider Creates . . .

the STRONG ARM METHOD

with these New

"HELL BENT for LEATHER N' LEAD" BRACELETS—

They Turn Your Arm Power On!

ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH TO WEAR THEM?

Snap on these electrifyingly New "HELL-BENT FOR LEATHER N' LEAD" Strong Arm Bracelets—and **instantly** your arms will start getting bigger and "oozing" 100% more power—almost without effort! Your body will take on the appearance of ferocious strength . . . striking fear and terror into anyone who would even think of attacking you!

NO EXERCISE — NO SWEAT — TO CREATE ARM POWER

There are no special exercises to do. You simply wear these unique weighted bracelets everywhere you go . . . at work or play, and even when relaxing! They instantly begin packing muscle on your arms as you perform the simplest arm movement; raising and lowering your hands, swinging them back and forth as you walk or run, play tennis, golf, etc. They build rugged, ferocious arm power for every sport . . . yes, including **Karate!**

SHE'LL LOVE THE LOOK OF YOUR ARM POWER!

Your manhood and virility will quickly COME ALIVE to women! They'll instantly sense your sex appeal and want to be in your arms.

THEY SPELL OUT 'POWER' — & ARE 'MOD'-STYLED

Expertly crafted from genuine leather and gold-toned lead weights—with the word P-O-W-E-R spelled out on each of them—these bracelets are the latest in mod fashions. They go well with all your clothes, turning them into vigorous-looking styles. You come alive with muscle and sex appeal—ALL AT THE SAME TIME!

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Come on, Tiger—give these Strong Arm "HELL-BENT FOR LEATHER N' LEAD" bracelets a try for 10 days—entirely at our risk. If you don't turn on the Arm Power fast, you can return them for a full refund. Fair? START NOW TO BECOME MORE OF A MAN IN SECONDS!

ONLY **$7.95** for one

Or, Get 2 (1 for each wrist)

FOR ONLY **$14.95**

5 Another JOSEPH WEIDER Breakthrough!

Slim Down & Make Out with JOE WEIDER'S SLIM-GARD THE INSTANT SLIMMER

Just slip on Joe Weider's New "Science Weapon", **SLIM GARD** and instantly start trimming your waist and hips to a sexy-slim size—without dieting—without tedious exercise!

And when combined with the "Slimmer's Routine" **SLIM GARD** can really flatten your pot belly and "pulverize" unwanted fat away from all over your body! **Here's Proof:** In a controlled University test, students reported waist losses of up to 3¼ inches and overall fat losses of 17 pounds—**IN ONLY 2 WEEKS!** They called it a "small miracle" the way it worked so fast!

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And remember, **SLIM GARD** is hidden—no one knows—nothing shows . . . **SLIM GARD's** secret is its gentle but firm "hugging action that keeps warm air in—cool air out, trimming inches effortlessly away!

SLIM GARD and the **"Slimmer's Routine"** work effectively for the fat or slender man. Simple instructions are included for the man who wants to quickly lose 20 to 40 pounds . . . and for the slender fellow who wants to lose only a few inches off his waist without losing weight.

And remember, SLIM GARD is hidden—no one knows—nothing shows . . . except the inches that go. You're guaranteed impressive results in 14 days or your money back!

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Savvy Slimming Tricks to Shape You Up and Trim You Down. Here's Part 3 to the Slimming Formula—the surprisingly effortless "Aerobic/Circuit" training routine used by athletes, coaches and models to get into shape fast. Within 14 days you'll be Firmer, Slimmer, More Energetic and Stronger—creating a New, Youthful, Sexier more Exciting You! **IT'S YOURS FREE—with SLIM GARD!**

THE SLIM GARD (Made to Last for Years) with The Slimmer's Routine **$11.95**

Comes in sizes: Medium & Large

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Dept. 104-101-P6

Dear Joe:

Thanks for letting me know about your "Shape-Up" . . . "Muscle-Up" courses and products. Please send me the items checked below, along with my FREE gifts. I understand all your products carry a full money-back guarantee . . . no "ifs" . . . "ands" . . . or "buts".

I enclose check or money order for: $.....

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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3 **CRASH-WEIGHT FORMULA #7 PLAN** with Free course (check one):

☐ 7-Day Supply ..... only **$ 8.00**

☐ 14-Day Supply ..... only **$14.98**

Check flavor desired: ☐ Chocolate ☐ Vanilla

4 ☐ **"HELL BENT FOR LEATHER N' LEAD BRACELETS"**

One Bracelet only **$ 7.95**

Get Two For only **$14.95**

5 ☐ **SLIM DOWN & MAKE OUT KIT** with **SLIM GARD** and the Free "Slimmer's Routine" ..... only **$11.95**

Check waist size: ☐ Medium (30-38) ☐ Large (39-47)

Wrestling MONTHLY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF WRESTLING

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

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IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

The November issue of WRESTLING MONTHLY will feature many stories and pictures on all the top wrestlers in the world over. Among them will be features on the reuniting of the Von Brauners and Gentleman Saul, The Destroyer going round the world, World Light Heavyweight Champion El Solitario, and a special tribute to the late Alberto Torres telling how his brother Ramon is carrying on the family name.

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DUE TO INCREASED POSTAGE RATES WE CANNOT ANSWER ANY MAIL UNLESS A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE IS INCLUDED WITH YOUR LETTERS.

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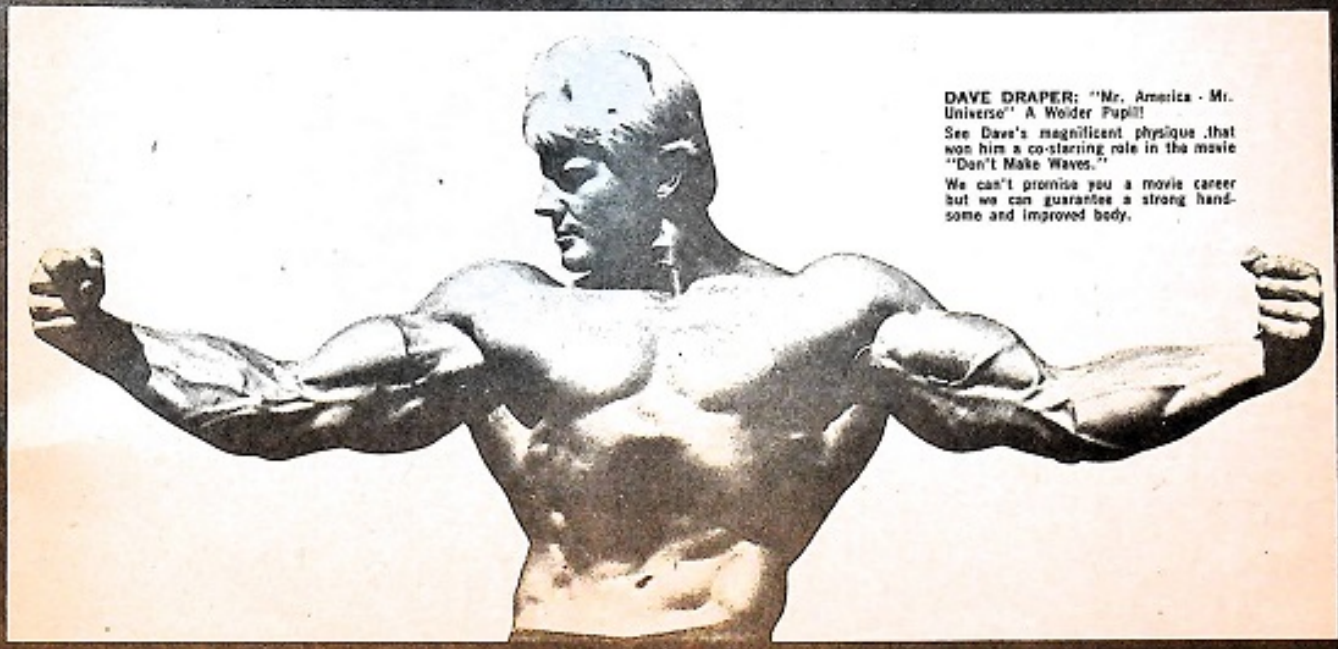
WHAT DOES THIS CHAMPION HAVE IN COMMON...WITH YOU?



DAVE DRAPER: "Mr. America - Mr. Universe" A Weider Pupil!

See Dave's magnificent physique that won him a co-starring role in the movie "Don't Make Waves."

We can't promise you a movie career but we can guarantee a strong handsome and improved body.

HE ANSWERED A WEIDER AD—GAINED 3 INCHES ON HIS ARMS —4 INCHES ON HIS CHEST—IN 7 SHORT WEEKS! YOU TOO!

You, too—just like Dave Draper—can now own a handsome, muscular body—fast! You, too, can now finally follow the exact same instructions this champ did, and in just 15 minutes a day, in the privacy of your own home, you can begin to slap on 4 inches to your chest and 3 inches to each arm, give yourself lifeguard shoulders, muscularize your waist, get speedy legs, and exercise your entire body. The techniques are simple, there's nothing complicated, just downright enjoyable.

I don't care if, today you own the skinniest, flabbiest or most laughed at body—whether you're tall or short, young or not-so-young. If you send for my FREE 32-page booklet of muscle building information, I guarantee that you will experience a muscle building miracle; before your eyes, you will see handsome muscles start bursting out all over you. They will ripple with power, burst with energy—and for the first time in your life men will envy your body, women admire it, because at last you own a body that brings you fame instead of shame. Let me help you as I did other champions—who were also weaklings—to put an end to your weakness and shame. Write now for free information —you'll be so happy you did! After all, you have nothing to lose but your weakness!

A-C-T-I-O-N is the key to strength—make your first He-Man-Decision N-O-W! Fill out the coupon right now, rush it to me, and in hours I will send you absolutely free—at my own expense—the exact same muscle building information I sent to Dave Draper and numerous champions, and to over 5 million other successful students. I am known as the most successful trainer of champions. I have been turning weaklings into "Mr. Americas" and "Mr. Universes" successfully since 1936. Don't pass up this once-in-a-lifetime proven successful offer to trade in your body for the one you always dreamed of having. Remember, you will be following in the proven, safe, scientific footsteps of the World's Best Men. So hurry! Put an end to your weakness now. Send for my sensational free offer—good only to males between 13 and 75 in normal good health. This is the most time-tested, results-producing course of all time.

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Personal trainer of "Mr. America" "Mr. Universe" "Mr. Canada" perfect men title winners since 1936 — and over 2,000,000 successful pupils the world over!

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Trainer of Champions since 1936
531-32nd Street, Union City, N.J. 07087

Dear Joe: Shoot the works! I agree, that just like the champions before me, I want to be a New Man! Rush me your free muscle-building information that I can use right now at home to build a handsome body. I have checked the gains I want to make. I'm enclosing 25c to cover handling and mailing charges. I am under no further obligation in any way.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____
(please print clearly)

MAIL COUPON TODAY FOR FREE 32 PAGE COURSE!

NO OBLIGATION! NOTHING TO BUY!

Here's the kind of body I want (Check as many as you wish).

- ☐ Bigger arms
- ☐ Larger Chest
- ☐ Broader Shoulders
- ☐ Athletic Legs
- ☐ More Weight
- ☐ Lose Weight
- ☐ Magnetic Personality

ABSOLUTELY FREE!

THE PROMOTER'S CORNER

by LeRoy McGuirk
Former World's Junior Heavyweight Champion
1971 National Wrestling Alliance Promoter of the Year.

Danny Hodge, LeRoy McGuirk, Leonard Clay, and Dory Funk Jr., as 'Promoter of the Year' plaque is presented to McGuirk.

There are three major divisions in professional wrestling today: the National Wrestling Alliance, the American Wrestling Alliance, and the World Wide Wrestling Federation. These three alliances work very much like the National Football League and the American Football League did when they were separated.

Each serves several major cities and brings championship calibre competition to its fans. Each has a champion, just as each of the above football leagues had its champion. A move is underway to iron out the obstacles which cause three champions and to have them meet in a wrestling Super Bowl to decide the Champion of Champions.

The Champion of the National Wrestling Alliance, the largest and most respected of the three is Dory Funk Jr. of Amarillo, Texas. He succeeds a long line of greats like Strangler Lewis, Lou Thesz, and Gene Kiniski. The champion of the World Wide Wrestling Federation is Pedro Morales. Pedro won the title from Ivan Koloff who won it from Bruno Sammartino who had held that title for many years.

If, and when the meeting between Funk, Gagne, and Morales occurs, it will truly be the greatest event ever in professional wrestling. Each man is almost equal in ability, even though they are different in size, stature, skill, and speed. Each has a tremendously strenuous schedule and is in great demand in the area of the world that has promoters affiliated with his alliance. The problems associated with working out a meeting between the three champions are monumental and are what is delaying a meeting between the three to decide the true World Champion.

Due to the advancement in size of wrestlers in the world today, one championship has remained the one and only championship of its kind. This is the World's Junior Heavyweight Championship recently won by Roger "Rip" Kirby from Danny Hodge. When I was active, and privileged to hold this championship, there were many men 200 pounds and under. But due to better nutrition and the growth of modern athletes, wrestlers are getting bigger, better, heavier, faster, stronger, and more exciting: so the weight limit has crept up.

When I was blinded and unable to defend the title, a great tournament was held to determine the new Junior Heavyweight Champion. This tournament was won by Verne Gagne. When he was no longer able to make the 200-pound weight limit, he had to give up the title, but to show the calibre of wrestler he is, Gagne is now the A. W. A. World's Heavyweight Champion.

When Danny Hodge won the title, the weight was raised to 210 pounds, because there was just not enough top competition who could stay under the 200-pound limit. Recently, the weight was raised another 10 pounds and presently is at 220 pounds.

Beneath the world's champions is a second echelon of champions. To compare with football again, these are the same as divisional champions. Examples of these are the North American Heavyweight Championship and the U.S. Championship.

There are a lot of champions in professional wrestling, but each one is deserving of his title.

* * * * * * * * *

(Editor's Note: Did you enjoy this issue's Promoter's Corner? Each and every month WRESTLING MONTHLY will present a column by one of the top wrestling promoters in the world. Next month, for example, powerful A. W. A. promoter Wally Karbo of Minneapolis will be our guest columnist. Those of you who enjoyed reading what LeRoy McGuirk had to say will also be in for a treat next month. Mr. McGuirk, who is now the promoter of wrestling in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas, knows more about the World's Junior Heavyweight Championship than any other man alive and he has consented to write a feature story on "The History of the World's Junior Heavyweight Championship" in our next issue.)

10 SECONDS THAT SEPARATE THE MEN FROM THE BOYS

11:00 P.M. – An argument in a parking lot. A big, beefy wiseguy gets insulting and takes a swing at you. He's pretty sure of himself – sizes you up as a weak pushover who couldn't punch his way out of a paper bag. Your girl looks on, terrified that you'll be beaten up, maybe permanently injured. BUT . . .

11:00 P.M. PLUS 10 SECONDS – A Miracle! In a flash you streak forward – almost too fast for the eye to follow. The bully is down quivering in fear and writhing in pain – completely destroyed by the ferocious terror blitz you unleashed. This situation could happen to you. READ ON THIS PAGE HOW IN JUST DAYS YOU CAN ACQUIRE THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF 5000 YEARS OF RUTHLESS TERROR FIGHTING TACTICS –ABSOLUTELY FREE!–TAKE ON ANYBODY–ANYTIME–ANYPLACE AND *WIN*

POLICE FILES REVEAL: 590,020 Burglaries, 61,410 Robberies, 100,110 Assaults, 21,080 Rapes, 6,920 Murders ALL IN A SINGLE YEAR!

IF ATTACKED — WHAT WILL YOU DO?

A BURGLAR IN YOUR HOME AFTER DARK!

Your family needs protection. Don't fail them. Here in this free book are the night-fighting tactics you need to hold a burglar helpless until police arrive. Here are the methods of the Commandos who fought by night.

A WOMAN TOO —

Can use the secrets in this free book and handle a man twice her size who tries to get fresh or WORSE. In seconds she can completely ruin any dirty dog who tries to lay a hand on her.

DISARM ROBBERS! —

Why give your money to some hoodlum. Here you will find terror-tactics that in a flash will enable you to make him drop his weapon and writhe in pain. Anyone dumb enough to tangle with a Weider Trained Terror Fighter will regret his mistake from a hospital bed or jail cell.

FEAR NO MAN IN JUST 24 HOURS

this absolutely free Terror-Fighting Course that I am anxious to send You shows how to swiftly start using my Terror-Fighting Secrets and Flatten out any Thug, Mug, Wiseguy or Bully — even if he's Tough, Trained and twice your size — Make him ABSOLUTELY HELPLESS IN SECONDS

FREE!

FOR MEN WHO WANT TO BE FEARLESS — A NEW TERROR FIGHTING COURSE 10 TIMES MORE DEVASTATING AND EFFECTIVE THAN BOTH KARATE AND JUDO COMBINED — NOW YOURS — *FREE FOR THE ASKING!*

WHAT'S THE SECRET?
NOT SIZE — NOT POWER — NOT STRENGTH!

I don't care if you're 15 or 50, Skinny, Fat or Undersize – If you've always been scared of your shadow – always 'chickened out' – never faced up to a fight in your life – got weak in the knees and ran – I PROMISE YOU THAT IN 24-HOURS I can give you the TERROR FIGHTING SECRETS that will turn you into a Fierce Human Arsenal of Fighting Power – giving you the cool confidence to walk through the toughest streets in late hours with the destructive force of a tiger stalking jungle paths – flattening and pulverizing in a split second with one jab of your finger any 200-lb. brute who is foolish enough to attack you – with one chop disarm any hood or break the strangle hold of any thief. No night-crawling thug will ever be dumb enough to break into your house nor any wise guy ever insult or lay hands on your loved ones or you – if he is still conscious after you've used the secrets that I am willing to send you FREE in this book. NEVER AGAIN FEAR ANY MAN–WIN WITH WEIDER.

After 20 years of research and at a cost of $200,000 into History's Most Terrifying No-Holds Barred Survival Struggle for Power – Going back into 50 centuries of terrifying combat secrets known to man, from the destructive fighting methods of the Hindu and Japanese Killer Cults Temples, from the merciless Nahuttan Indians, to the Foot Fighters of the French underworld to the religious fanatic Assassins of the middle east to the Waterfront docks, Lumbercamps to the private files of the Commandos, Police Departments etc., I have learned that the secret of fighting power is not in the weight and muscles but just simple plain "KNOW-HOW". These "KNOW-HOW" secrets taken from all these fighting systems stretching 5000 years are now, for the first time known to man, put into one course that I am anxious to send to you showing how you, and your family in just 15 minutes a day in the privacy of your own home, can learn to master all these closely guarded secrets of the Karate, Savate, Judo exponents and masters to turn you into a Terrifying fighting machine. Take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime, limited free offer and –

YOU CAN BECOME A DESTRUCTIVE SELF-DEFENSE TERROR FIGHTER IN JUST 30 DAYS!

says JOE WEIDER, *Acknowledged World's No. 1 "Trainer of Champions"*

Take care of yourself — Anytime — Anywhere — in any and all situations. Never again fear any man nor turn away from a challenge.

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My course teaches you how to use the Foot-Fighting Secrets of the French Underworld, the Methods of the Samurai Warriors of Old Japan who killed with bare hands and feet; ASSASSINS – religious fanatical killers; CARIBS – savage natives; ROUGH AND TUMBLE fighters – the most ruthless tactics from the docks, dives and waterfronts of the toughest towns.

PLUS shocking secrets of hideous Vandals, Thugs, ferocious Aztecs – Vicious Karate-kas, Commandos, Jungle Fighters – Boxing – Wrestling – Secret Police Methods, and other destructive self-defense secrets never before revealed.

All This and MORE in New Complete Terror-Tactics Fighting Course

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MAIL NOW . . . FOR FIGHTING SECRETS!

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Yes Joe: I never again want to be "Weak In The Knees" and "Chicken Out" when insulted and attacked. I need your self-defense secrets that you reveal in your free booklet "How To Be A Destructive Self-Defense Fighter In Days". I am enclosing 25-cents to help cover the cost and handling of the booklet which is guaranteed to do all you say or I can get my money back.

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THE CASE FOR THE NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

by SAM MUCHNICK

Sam Muchnick, the president of the National Wrestling Alliance, and St. Louis promoter.

As the only man remaining active in professional wrestling from the original group of mat promoters who formed the National Wrestling Alliance in Waterloo, Iowa, on July 14, 1948, Sam Muchnick can best appreciate the high degree of stature and importance which this strong organization has achieved through the years.

Muchnick was there when the NWA was born. He was in Minneapolis during September, 1948, when the original by-laws of the NWA were formulated. He has worked closely with each of those now active in the NWA in addition to each of the 38 former members, some of whom have passed away. Among those deceased are Morris Sigel, Paul Bowser, Sam Avey, Fred Kohler, Max Clayton, Hugh Nichols, Tony Stecher, Joe Malciwecz, Al Karasick, John Doyle, Eddie Quinn, Billy Wolfe, Cal Eaton, Karl Sarpolis and Ed McLemore.

P. L. "Pinkie" George held the office of president for the first two years of the NWA and was followed in 1951 by Muchnick, who had been secretary-treasurer. Muchnick stepped down to be executive-secretary after serving ten consecutive years in the head chair. Frank Tunney of Toronto, Kohler of Chicago and Sarpolis of Amarillo each had one-year terms as prexy before Muchnick returned to the helm of the NWA in 1963. He has now served over 18 years as president and says "I'll stay on as long as the membership wants me or as long as I feel I am capable of handling the job."

Originally the NWA recognized Orville Brown as the World Heavyweight Champion. At the same time Lou Thesz was also claiming the honor. In an effort to clear up the title picture, the NWA arranged for Brown and Thesz to clash in St. Louis on November 5, 1949. Tickets had already been printed when Brown was involved in a serious automobile accident on November 1. The severe injuries received in that mishap ended Orville's career in wrestling (although he eventually joined the NWA as a promoter) and Thesz was recognized as the champion by the NWA. In fact, it wasn't until March 15, 1956, when Lou was beaten by "Whipper" Billy Watson, that Thesz was removed from the throne.

Today the NWA recognizes champions in three weight divisions. The World Heavyweight titleholder is Dory Funk Jr., the Junior Heavyweight king is Dan Hodge and the Light Heavyweight champion is El Solitario. Funk has proven to be one of the biggest gate attractions in the history of the NWA and has earned praise wherever he has wrestled for his superb mat talents and pleasing personality.

The heavyweight titlist is booked through the NWA by its president, in this case Muchnick. Although it is the president who allots dates, it is up to the champion and the promoter where the "kingpin" is booked to decide upon an opponent. If a certain foe is vetoed by the champion he must give his reasons to the NWA. The champion also has to put up a suitable bond with the NWA to guarantee his appearance in cities where he is booked. Should the present champion be defeated, the new titleholder takes over the dates already booked by the former king. The dethroned grappler is, of course, free to sign whatever dates he can.

Dory Funk, Jr., the N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion.

Los Angeles promoter Mike LeBell interviews N.W.A. champion Funk.

Funk, the World Heavyweight Champion as recognized by the NWA, owes his claim to a direct lineal descent from Frank Gotch, the first universally accepted World Champion in 1905. There is no law, however, that keeps someone else from billing himself as the "world champion."

"A group of baseball players could drop out of the major leagues," Muchnick offered as an example, "and tour the country calling themselves the 'world champions of baseball.' They could print stationery and business cards with the same phrase and nobody could legally stop them from doing this.

"But that doesn't make them legitimate champions," Muchnick concluded.

Of course, all National Wrestling Alliance members recognize the NWA champions . . . and these members, who represent well over 500 promoters, are based throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Australia. The NWA also has affiliates in other countries throughout Asia and Europe. Since the NWA is considered the governing body of wrestling Funk, Hodge and El Solitario certainly have very valid claims and enjoy an overwhelming amount of recognition. Yet the NWA has never hesitated to invite non-member promoters to its meetings and to maintain cordial relations with these groups.

Don't get the idea, however, that the NWA is concerned strictly with professional wrestling. During the years the NWA has sponsored many worthy projects, such as donating to leader dogs for the blind. The NWA has always made generous contributions to the United States Olympic wrestling team. On April 15, 16 and 17, Eddie Graham, Tampa promoter and NWA member, helped to sponsor the National AAU Freestyle wrestling tournament in Tampa.

But it is in the play-for-pay sport that the NWA has made its greatest strides. When Muchnick went to work for Tom Packs in 1932, the "Big Six" controlled virtually all wrestling talent. In order to obtain the top wrestlers, a promoter would have to negotiate with Joe "Toots" Mondt, Jack Curley, Ray Fabiani, Ed White, Paul Bowser or Packs. Most promoters never saw each other and were very dependent upon the "Big Six."

The NWA ended such "trusts" and "monopolies." It recognized that each promoter was dependent upon his own abilities and did not try to force wrestlers to appear for only a certain group of promoters. Through the NWA, promoters have founded many solid friendships and fostered an atmosphere that is good for wrestling—both in and out of the ring.

All members of the NWA have had to spend much money and effort before they became successful. Unlike the promoters and owners involved in baseball, football, basketball and hockey, a wrestling promoter has no protection from a league. Each man is on his own and must rise or fall with his own personal abilities. A poor promoter is unable to cover up his failures.

The NWA is currently preparing for its 24th annual convention, this one to be held at Mexico City in August. Previously conventions have been held in St. Louis, Mo.; Chicago, Ill.; Dallas, Texas; Tulsa, Okla.; Toronto, Canada; Acapulco, Mexico; Las Vegas, Nev.; and Santa Monica, Calif. There has even been some talk of holding the 5th confab at Tokyo, Japan.

As this convention draws nearer, the praise for Funk's job as World Heavyweight Champion has grown. "I'm elated with Funk's performance," stated Muchnick. "Dory has a fine background in wrestling, having been trained by his father, and that shows when he is in the ring. He combines tremendous ability with that indefinable quality many people call charisma. Not too many experts thought that Funk would hold the title very long after he upset Gene Kiniski, but Dory has proven them all wrong. Funk has been a truly great champion."

Muchnick himself has no regrets about his intimate association with wrestling through the years. "Wrestling is a fine body-building sport," he pointed out. "Every single muscle in a person's body is developed through the different moves of wrestling. Just because someone is a burly football player or a powerful weight-lifter doesn't mean that he is guaranteed success in pro wrestling.

"A man must have a sound knowledge of the basics of wrestling. He can only obtain this by constant work on the mats, possibly in high school or college competition," Muchnick continued. "I'm very happy to see so many former college grapplers and athletes joining the pro ranks, because that can only help our product. Look what men like Bronko Nagurski, Gus Sonnenberg, Jim McMillen and Joe Savoldi accomplished."

The future of wrestling is indeed bright and much of the credit for that rosy outlook must go to the NWA. Through its basic concept of cooperation and friendship between promoters who naturally must depend upon their own talents, there seems to be no problem in wrestling that is insolvable.

THE CASE FOR THE AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE

by PAT LANGER

THE CASE FOR THE A.W.A.
Stanley Blackburn, the president of the A.W.A., and Wally Karbo, the top A.W.A. promoter.

Verne Gagne, the A.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion.

The American Wrestling Alliance is made up of leading promoters throughout the world. It has members in Europe and Asia as well as in North America. The A.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion, Verne Gagne, has defended the title in Spain and Japan as well as throughout the United States. Such cities as Madrid, Boston, Amarillo, Chicago, and Los Angeles have seen Gagne put the title on the line.

The president of the A.W.A. is Mr. Stanley Blackburn who has his offices in Amarillo, Texas. The leading member promoters are Wally Karbo of Minneapolis, Joe Dusek of Omaha, Gene Reed of Denver, Bob Luce of Chicago-Indianapolis, Harvey Solon of Duluth, Don Marxen of Moline-Davenport, Eddie Williams of St. Paul, Buddy Lee Cliff of Rockford, Ben Sternberg of Rochester, John Guglyn of Winnipeg, and Duaine Hoberg of Fargo-Moorhead.

The A.W.A. was originally part of the National Wrestling Alliance. In fact, Minneapolis promoter Wally Karbo was associated with the late Tony Stecher in 1948 when the N.W.A. had its first convention. Stecher hosted the meeting in Minneapolis and became a charter member of the N.W.A. By 1950, the N.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion, Lou Thesz, was recognized throughout the world.

Then in 1957 the current championship puzzle started. On June 14th of that year, Edouard Carpentier defeated Lou Thesz in Chicago. The title and belt were awarded to Carpentier, but the N.W.A. over-ruled the referee and gave the title back to Thesz because one of the falls was on a disqualification. However, in this case, many states refused to follow the edict of the national alliance.

One of these states was Nebraska. They continued to recognize Carpentier as champion until he lost the title to Verne Gagne in August of 1958. Carpentier also had recognition from various other states and the fact is that there were several title versions involved, but all of them are now merged into one of the three versions that are still left today.

At this point Wally Karbo was still a member of the National Wrestling Alliance. However, he was a strong supporter of Gagne, and Verne already held the Nebraska version of the title. Karbo had been working for five years to arrange a N.W.A. title match for Gagne in Minneapolis. Finally, in 1960, he felt that he needed to take drastic action to force this match.

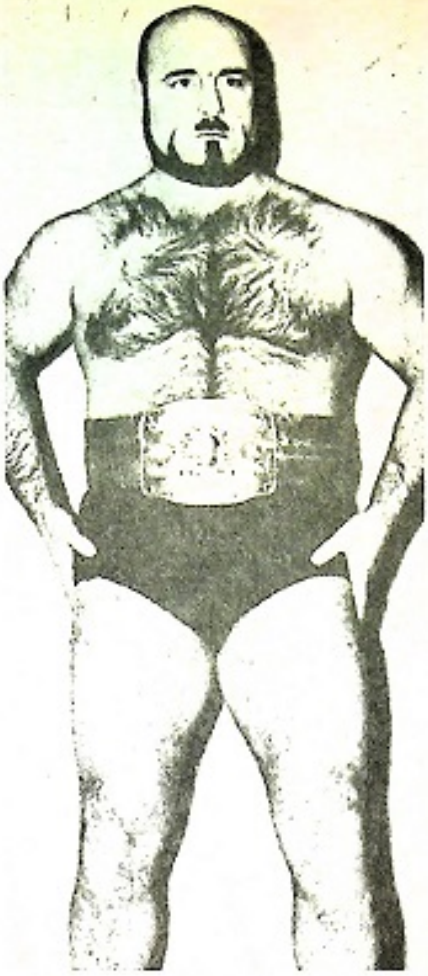
He called a meeting of all the promoters who agreed with his view, that unless Gagne was given

a shot at the N.W.A. title it would be meaningless, because to have a true world champion, he must defend the title against the very best challengers. Verne Gagne, at that time, had been ranked among the top ten contenders for over five years, often in the top position, and yet he had never had a title shot during that period.

Karbo and his associates formed the American Wrestling Alliance. Ironically, the first champion recognized by the A.W.A. was not Gagne, but Pat O'Connor, who was the current N.W.A. Champion. However, the A.W.A. stipulated that O'Connor had three months to sign for a title match with Gagne or else lose recognition. When O'Connor refused to sign for the match and when the 90-day period had elapsed, the A.W.A. took action on its own and removed recognition from O'Connor and crowned Gagne the World's Heavyweight Champion. The National Wrestling Alliance, of course, did not go along with this title switch and so two champions were the result.

As the years passed, the A.W.A. title received wider and wider recognition. Although Gagne has been the champion for most of the past decade, Bill Miller and Mad Dog Vachon also had the title for periods of over a year, and Wilbur Snyder, Don Leo Jonathan, Fritz von Erich, The Crusher, and Dick the Bruiser all had brief stints as champion.

In each case the result has been the same. Gagne may have lost the title, but in a rematch he regained it. Verne also gained stature by winning title defenses against Dory Funk Jr., Gene Kiniski, Pat O'Connor, and Lou Thesz. Needless to say, those matches took place either before or after the above mentioned held the N.W.A. title during that period, but the fact remains that Gagne successfully defended the A.W.A. title against every one of the N.W.A. champions during the past decade. Gagne also traveled to N.W.A. cities such as Atlanta, St. Louis, Detroit, Kansas City, Amarillo, and Honolulu to



Mad Dog Vachon, former A.W.A. World's Champion.

wrestle for National Wrestling Alliance promoters while he was A.W.A. Champion.

A super bowl type match between Gagne and the N.W.A. champion was proposed several times, but the match was never signed. The reasons why are complex, but probably the chief one is that N.W.A. promoters feel that Gagne would not keep the rigid schedule the N.W.A. demands and that Gagne would favor the present A.W.A. promoters with more appearances in that area. However, history disproves this because when Gagne held the N.W.A. World's Junior Heavyweight Championship some years back, he was without a doubt the most traveled champion that division ever saw and defended the N.W.A. world title in more areas than any other champ in that division's history.

The time factor may have chief importance. One champion can only defend his title a maximum of around 300 times per year. Two champions mean twice as many title matches when you add up both N.W.A. and A.W.A. promotions, so an agreement would have to include the provision that all promoters in both alliances would have to cut down the number of title matches in each individual city if they had one champion for both groups. The promoters individually are reluctant to cut down the number of times they have the champion per year and the collective result is that super bowl type eliminations have been blocked by the individual demands made by promoters from both alliances on the universal champion that would result.

Still there is hope. Wally Karbo, the most powerful A.W.A. promoter, still maintains his membership in the N.W.A. and follows their edicts in all aspects of the sport except for heavyweight title recognition.

Although no elimination has been signed, the promoters of the N.W.A. and of the A.W.A. work in close harmony. The channels are open and who knows what the future may bring. The A.W.A. has never disputed Dory Funk's lineal claim to the throne. The whole alliance has been based on the injustice of not giving Verne Gagne a shot at the N.W.A. title for the past fifteen years. For Verne Gagne's sake, we must hope that this injustice is corrected soon. After 22 years of professional wrestling, he no longer has many of his prime years of professional wrestling ahead of him.

Verne Gagne sincerely believes that he is the very best wrestler in the world today. His record certainly supports that belief and the true World's Heavyweight Champion should be the man who is the very best wrestler in the world today. For the sake of wrestling, the Verne Gagne vs. Dory Funk Jr. match must be made.

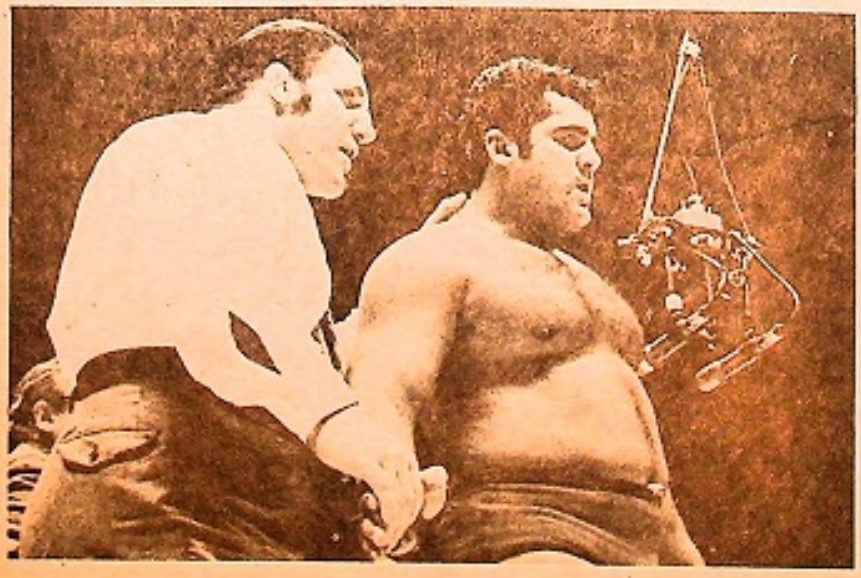
THE CASE FOR THE WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

by BRENDA HAMMER

In the past, some people have claimed that the World Wide Wrestling Federation does not have a solid base for their World's Heavyweight Championship. Those who deny the W. W. W. F. its rightful place have misinterpreted some of the facts, and omitted some important matches that have a bearing on the case.

Since the main dispute concerns three men, Buddy Rogers, Bruno Sammartino, and Lou Thesz, let us take a look at their won-loss record at the time the dispute arose.

Willie Gilzenberg, W.W.W.F. president; Abe Ford, Boston promoter; Vince McMahon, Washington D.C., and New York City promoter.



Ex-W.W.W.F. Champion Bruno Sammartino and current W.W.W.F. Champion Pedro Morales.

First let us consider Bruno Sammartino and Buddy Rogers who in 1962 and 1963 were having a torrid feud. On August 2nd, 1962, in Toronto, Canada, Bruno Sammartino beat Buddy Rogers under very unusual circumstances. During the match, Buddy Rogers had attempted to vault over the hard-charging Bruno, but was accidently butted in the groin by Bruno's head. Rogers couldn't continue, and the match was awarded to Bruno. Bruno, being a true gentleman, refused to take the title under these circumstances, saying that he would rather win it fair and square in the middle of the ring.

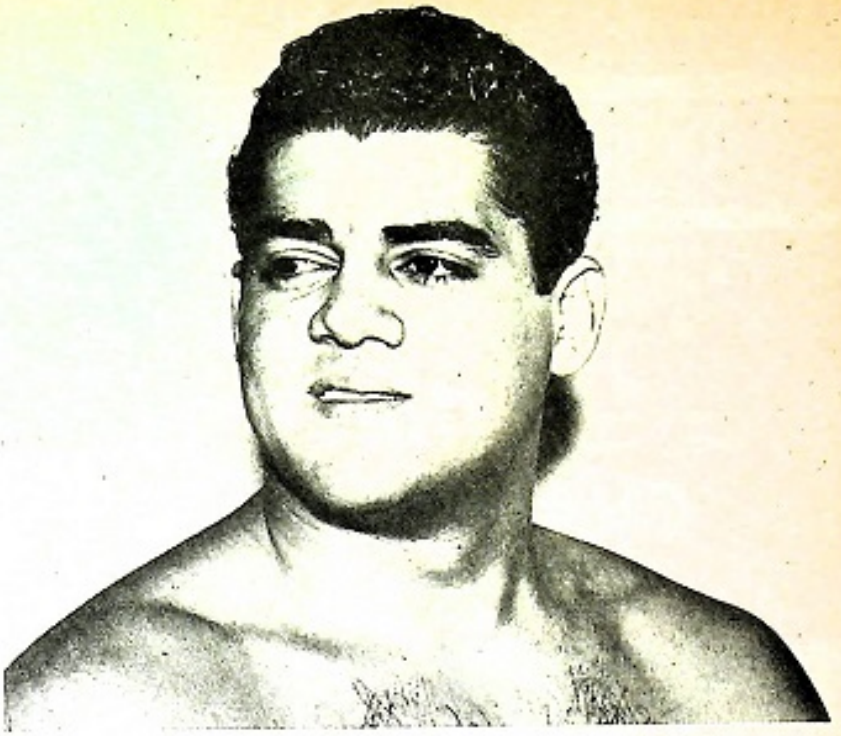
On November 5th of the same year, Bruno got another shot at Buddy Rogers' title in his home town of Pittsburgh. Rogers wrestled a defensive match all the way through, and was lucky to hold on to his title with the match ending in a draw. It was quite evident to all that were in attendance that night, that Bruno not only had youth and strength on his side, but was also the superior wrestler. Fifteen days later, Bruno got another rematch. Once again, Rogers continued to run away from him and the match ended in another draw.

On January 24, 1963, in Toronto, Lou Thesz defeated Buddy Rogers to win the National Wrestling Alliance title. At this point, the World Wide Wrestling Federation was formed, for two reasons. First of all, there was quite a bit of doubt in the minds of many promoters whether Lou Thesz really deserved the title. The title bout

itself was a one fall affair—which at the time was extremely unusual. Secondly, on January 16th in Amarillo, Texas, Thesz had been soundly defeated by Dory Funk Sr. It was obvious to many promoters that Thesz by no stretch of the imagination had earned a title bout. Many promoters felt that the once great Rogers was carefully choosing his opponents in order to avoid his number one contender, Bruno Sammartino.

On April 18, 1963, Bruno finally cornered Buddy Rogers in Washington D. C. In a wild and wooly match which found both men being disqualified, Rogers once again held onto his title.

On May 17th of the same year, before 19,649 fans in the old Madison Square Garden, Bruno finally defeated Buddy Rogers for the title. It took Bruno only 48 seconds to reach the highest plateau in professional wrestling and most serious students of the game proclaimed him the greatest champion of all time.



Pedro Morales has proven to be one of the finest champions in wrestling history.

Morales proudly waves Puerto Rican flags after a victory in Madison Square Garden.

Some have claimed that the World Wide Wrestling Federation and its champion apparently are content to stay in the Northeast territory of the United States, and are not interested in universal recognition. To anybody who pays any serious attention to results, it is quite evident that this reasoning is way off. Bruno not only defended his title throughout the United States and Canada, but also made trips to Japan and Australia, and successfully defended his laurels there.

It is not too surprising that Bruno did not accept a match with Verne Gagne in his home town of Minneapolis. The A.W.A. and Verne Gagne do have a claim to the title, and a showdown match would settle quite a bit. It would have been stupid for Bruno to wrestle Gagne in his home town of Minneapolis. He not only would have had to contend with unfriendly fans, but also most likely a biased referee.

In reality, Bruno has done more than any other champ to clear up the title picture. At one time Fred Blassie was recognized as world champ around Los Angeles. Bruno engaged in a series of wild and wooly matches with Blassie, finally ending the Californian's claim to the title.

Also, for a while Ray Stevens of San Francisco fame laid claim to the title. Throwing caution to the wind, Bruno ventured to the Golden Gate city and successfully defended his title against the blond bomber.

On January 18, 1971, Bruno's long reign as champion came to an end in Madison Square Garden when strong man Ivan Koloff pulled an upset and defeated him. Three weeks later to the day, Puerto Rican sensation Pedro Morales avenged his friend by defeating the Russian strong man and winning the title.

Morales has already proven to be a very fine champion, turning back all of his top contenders.

Mr. Morales has expressed his willingness to this author and the press in general to meet any of the other so-called champions and end the confused title situation. The twenty-eight-year-old drop kick wizard requests only that the match be held in a neutral city and with an unbiased referee.

EDITORIAL

THE CHAMPIONSHIP PUZZLE

PEDRO MORALES — THE WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

VERNE GAGNE — THE AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION'

DORY FUNK JR. — THE NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIION.

by NORMAN H. KIETZER

The scene is set. The panel of wrestling experts is looking on. In the box are seated the three claimants to the World's Heavyweight Wrestling Championship. Each has had the chance to present his case in the three previous articles. Now the moment of truth has come as the moderator says, "Will the real World's Heavyweight Champion please stand up." The wrestling fans of the world wait in breathless anticipation to see just who the real champion is.

But before we announce the decision, let's look at what the title means to us. "World's" means that this encompasses every continent on this vast globe of ours and that there is no man in the entire world who can dispute the claim. "Heavyweight" means that there is no limit to what a man may weigh to participate in this division.

The key word is "champion". To us this word means that for a person to be so recognized, he must have proved himself superior to all rivals. The man we recognize as champion must have proved to us that he is the very best wrestler in the world.

We look back at Pedro Morales, Verne Gagne, and Dory Funk Jr. Although there is no doubt in the minds of our panel that these three men stand above every other professional wrestler in the world, there is no way that we can honestly take the last step and pick among them.

True, Dory Funk Jr. has the largest recognition and appears in more areas than any other claimant. True, Funk has a lineal claim to the title that is better than any other. True, the National Wrestling Alliance is the largest and strongest promoter's group in wrestling today. If we *were* to pick one of the three claimants seated before us we would probably have to pick Dory Funk Jr. and go along with the National Wrestling Alliance.

But, we could never say that Dory Funk Jr. has proved that he is superior to every other professional wrestler in the world. There are still two men against whom he must prove his right to recognition as champion by WRESTLING MONTHLY. Those two men are Verne Gagne and Pedro Morales. At this point all we can say is that the balance of evidence seems to be on the verge of tilting the scales in favor of the National Wrestling Alliance Champion, but the A.W.A. claim and the W.W.W.F. claim still have enough validity in our eyes to keep us from rendering a decision.

And, since there are no plans in the works for elimination matches between the three champions at this time, we can only conclude that it will be some time before WRESTLING MONTHLY recognizes a World Champion.

Certain the American Wrestling Alliance, with promotions in major cities like Winnipeg, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Omaha, and Denver in the United States, and with the A.W.A. International Wrestling Enterprise in Asia cannot be considered a group of illegitimate wrestlers who have dropped out of the N.W.A. and called Verne Gagne their champion.

After all, Gagne has successfully

defended the A.W.A. title against Lou Thesz, Pat O'Connor, Dory Funk Jr., and Gene Kiniski. And there is no N.W.A. promoter who would call these wrestlers "major league dropouts" during any of their careers.

The promoters themselves by their actions admit that all three alliances are major league. We've seen superstars like Gene Kiniski, The Sheik, Jack Brisco, Bobo Brazil, Jack Lanza, or Baron von Raschke who jump back and forth from one circuit to the other. No alliance has a monopoly on the top wrestlers. Outside of the alliance champion which each group controls, the rest of the top wrestlers in the world work for all three alliances.

Any well read follower of professional wrestling knows that Black Jack Lanza has appeared more than a dozen times in the past two years during the same week on an N.W.A. promotion in St. Louis and an A.W.A. promotion in Chicago. That The Sheik has appeared one night for the N.W.A. in California and the next night for the W.W.W.F. in Boston. That Jack Brisco has been a W.W.W.F. star one night in Madison Square Garden and a N.W.A. star a few nights later in Florida.

The point we want to dispute in the N.W.A. case is that other alliances are made up of drop-outs from the N.W.A. The truth is that all of the top wrestlers in the world, with the exception of the three titleholders who work directly for the Alliances, work for all three major leagues.

Since the promoters are able to work this closely together in the matter of sharing the other wrestlers, why can't they share one champion. In the early 1950's they did and the situation didn't seem to work out that badly.

Actually the N.W.A. and the W.W.W.F. had a series of meetings a few years ago in which they discussed having an elimination bout between Lou Thesz and Bruno Sammartino who were then the respective champions of those two groups. The only thing that prevented the match from taking place was, according to N.W.A. president Sam Muchnick, the insistance of the W.W.W.F. that the combined champion that resulted would spend half his time working in the W.W.W.F. cities and half his time in the N.W.A.

Actually the three men who could solve this situation are not Funk, Gagne, and Sammartino. The three are Sam Muchnick acting as chief of the N.W.A. promoters, Vince McMahon, the most powerful W.W.W.F. promoter, and Wally Karbo, the top promoter in the A.W.A. If these three men would sit down and agree that wrestling had to have one champion, then they would have the power to make it happen.

We agree with Vince McMahon that the combined champion would have to spend more time in the W.W.W.F. territory than in other parts of the United States because the largest portion of the population of our country is concentrated in that group's northeastern territory. But, fourteen days out of every month is too much. Certainly Mr. McMahon cannot expect to have the champion headline every one of his monthly Madison Square Garden shows as the W.W.W.F. titleholder now does.

Mr. Muchnick told us, as St. Louis promoter, he would be willing to give up several of his championship dates a year in order to have one champion. But wrestling can only have a genuine champion if every promoter in all three alliances agrees to make that concession.

That would mean, if wrestling had one champion, Wally Karbo, the powerful A.W.A. promoter in Minneapolis who is also associated with the A.W.A. promotions in Chicago, Milwaukee, Winnipeg, and Denver, would no longer have Verne Gagne, living his back yard, ready to call on as often as he does. Certainly Gagne doesn't headline as great a percentage of the A.W.A. shows as Morales does for the W.W.W.F., but whatever the case is–and this goes for every area in the country–if wrestling wants a genuine heavyweight titleholder every promoter will have to reduce the number of dates that he has the champion booked to defend his title each year.

The question that may come up in the promoter's mind is this. Why, when I am setting attendance records right now, with my title matches, Should I cut down the number of times I can present the champion to my fans? After all, the aim of every good wrestling promoter should be to give the fans of his area the very best wrestling in the world, and what could be better than giving them the World's Heavyweight Champion?

This answer may be open to debate, but here is what we propose. With a disputed titleholder, Vince McMahon can fill Madison Square Garden any time. With a genuine universally recognized champion he might fill Yankee Stadium. With a disputed titleholder Bob Luce can sell out the International Amphitheatre any time. With a genuine champion he can certainly anticipate filling one of Chicago's ballparks. With a disputed titleholder Aileen Eaton can sell out her Olympic, but what potential would a genuine titleholder have in one of the larger stadiums in Los Angeles.

Maybe our answer isn't right. Certainly WRESTLING MONTHLY and I as Editor can't claim to know everything about professional wrestling. Certainly those promoters with years more experience in the sport than I have know a lot more about some aspects of the sport.

Right now I sincerely believe that professional wrestling is the greatest spectator sport in the world and will continue to believe that even if nothing is done to change that championship puzzle.

But, as editor of this magazine I believe I have not just the right, but the duty to speak out on controversial aspects of wrestling. Certainly the championship puzzle is the most controversial thing that faces professional wrestling today.

We have presented the cases for three alliances, and in this editorial we have presented our own views on the subject. Now the rest is up to you. We want to hear from fans, promoters, wrestlers, and anyone else who feels they have a valid opinion on this matter. The best of these letters will be reprinted in our READER'S FORUM.

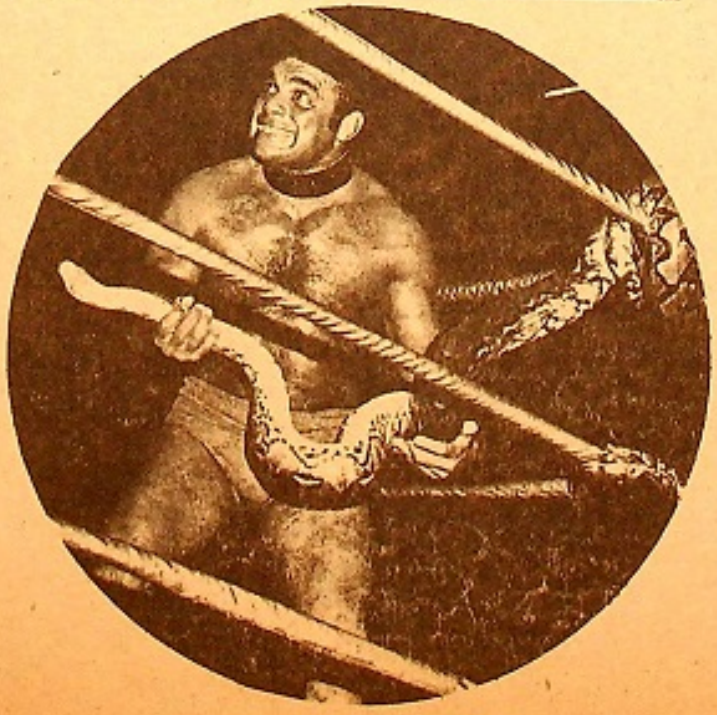
We could try to please everyone by saying that all three claimants to the World's Heavyweight Championship have valid claims, but that would be the easy way out. Somehow we feel that the World's title should mean something more than it does to professional wrestling today. We have visions of crowds like professional football is drawing for title bouts. We have visions of closed circuit matches, with separate "live" undercards in all the major wrestling arenas when there is an important match.

Maybe we are dreaming, but that's our opinion. What's yours?

THE FALL AND RISE OF FRED BLASSIE

Yes, he's back in action and ready to go! To Know Fred Blassie is to LOVE him.

by JEFF WALTON



John Tolos has been known to use everything, including a snake, in his wrestling matches.

THE FALL OF FRED BLASSIE

Before I became publicity director for wrestling at the Olympic Auditorium I was very honored to have been Freddie Blassie's Fan Club President for seven years. With my good friend Terry Brodt we had what I believe to be one of the best fan clubs around.

In those days Fred was hated by

opponents, many fans and quite a few promoters. He would go into a town and almost kill the local hero. Yes sir, Fred Blassie was hated like the plague. Fred loved every minute of it. He laughed all the way to the bank when the fans wanted to see him destroyed.

In 1964 a very serious kidney ailment forced him out of wrestling. Now many fan clubs quit being active once a wrestler retires or gives up the mat sport, but I kept the Freddie Blassie club going. I knew that no injury could keep Fred down. It wasn't until the summer of '67 that Fred shocked the mat world by returning to wrestling. It was unbelievable the way he came back to win match after match.

Fred's outlook on wrestling was different. Although he still chewed up opponents he found a new breed of opponents, wrestlers who were not only strong but intelligent too.

Blassie was beginning to tire of the boos and nasty remarks from the fans. At night he couldn't sleep as his past began to creep up on him. Then, in 1970, Fred was watching Rocky Johnson, the Soulman, wrestle. Out of nowhere came John Tolos, a former partner of Fred's and clubbed Johnson senseless.

Fred suddenly felt something snap! He ran into the ring. The fans thought Fred was going to help Tolos, but instead he sent a stiff right to the jaw of the Golden Greek, knocking him cold. He picked Johnson up and carried him to the dressing room and a doctor.

The fans couldn't believe it. This was not the Fred Blassie they knew. Yet this was the Fred Blassie they had always wanted to see. And so a NEW Freddie Blassie was born.

He was made honorary mayor of small towns, Student President of Beverly Hills, Culver City and other high schools. Colleges wanted him to speak on vital matters. Fred was one of the most popular men on the West Coast.

It was in May of this year that John Tolos got even with Fred for what he had done to him. For six months the Olympic had conducted a "Wrestler of the Year" contest. Finally one night on local TV announcer Dick Lane ripped open the envelope containing the winner's name and proudly announced: "Freddie Blassie." Tears swelled in Blassie's eyes as he went over to Dick to receive the prized trophy. It was then that sore loser John Tolos ran to ringside and took a bottle of dangerous Monsel's Powder out of Dr. Schwartz's medical bag which was by the timekeeper. He threw the powder into Blassie's eyes. Fred fell to the ground, screaming in pain. He was taken to South Hoover Hospital where he remained for a week.

Fred's left eye was badly burned by the powder. As far as his being able to

Blassie is the undisputed king of wrestling on the southern California mat scene.

Blassie has battle men like Dorry Funk Jr. and Chris Markoff in the Los Angeles Olympic. More often than not there is blood spurting before the match is over.

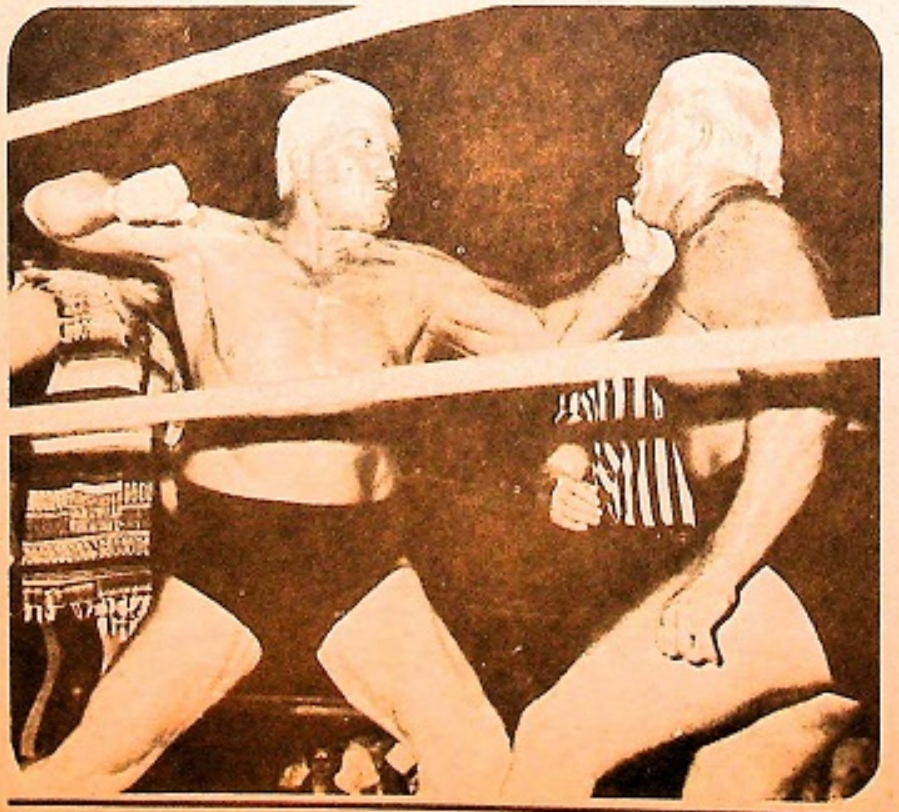
Blassie with Japanese fan Shigeo Nagaguwa during his comeback.

wrestle again, we can't say. But if you knew Freddie Blassie like I know Freddie Blassie you'd feel deep within that he'll be back some way, somehow.

Yes, to really know Blassie now is honestly to love him!

Shoei Baba, the Japanese Champion, was one of Blassie recent opponents there before he returned to the United States.

When all else fails, Blassie resorts to his fists. Those two big meathunks have ground out many a victory for the classy one.



THE RISE OF FRED BLASSIE

by NORMAN H. KIETZER

Just when things seemed darkest for Fred Blassie and we were wondering if he would ever return to action, one of our correspondents caught up with Fred in Japan. He had gone into seclusion after the injury and considered his wrestling career over.

But like the great athlete Blassie is, the injury failed to keep him down as the doctors said it would. He defied medical odds, as he has done so often before, and he returned to wrestling. His first bouts were in Japan and Fred soon found that all of the old reflexes were still there.

The National Wrestling Alliance decided not to punish John Tolos for what he did to Blassie. The reason for this is that it did not happen in the ring and never before in the history of wrestling has something like this happened. Therefore, the Alliance had no rules to cover the situation and so Tolos could not be fined and suspended as many fans and promoters wanted.

But, the day will soon come when Fred Blassie returns to action in Los Angeles. And when that happens John Tolos can look forward to punishment at the hands of Fred that is greater than any ever meted out by the N.W.A. rules committee.

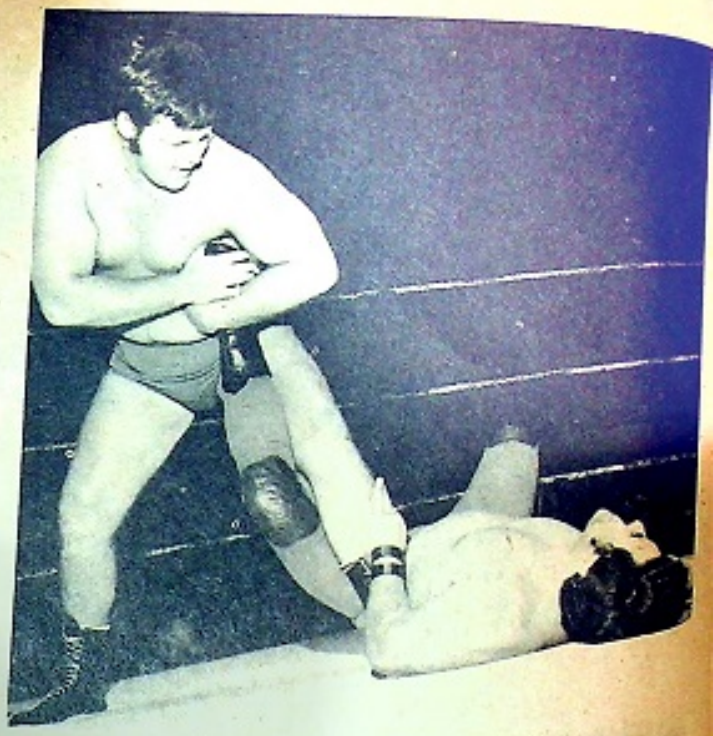
WRESTLING MONTHLY CHECKS OUT MIAMI BEACH

Each month Wrestling Monthly will attempt to visit one of the major wrestling cities in the country and give you a report on the wrestling there. This first issue saw Gene Gordon assigned to check out wrestling in Miami Beach, Florida, and his pictures tell, a lot better than words could, how great professional wrestling is in that city.

by GENE GORDON

Miami Beach promoter Chris Dundee, a pretty fan, and wrestler Eduardo Perez clown around before the start of the matches.

Art Mickelson the hard working publicity man for promoter Dundee.



Joe Flaherty, left, and Pedro Valdez, right, each apply toe holds on the other during their hard fought, action filled match.

Mr. Dieto has a punishing headlock on Jose "El Gran" Lothario during a heated battle between the Oriental and the Mexican.

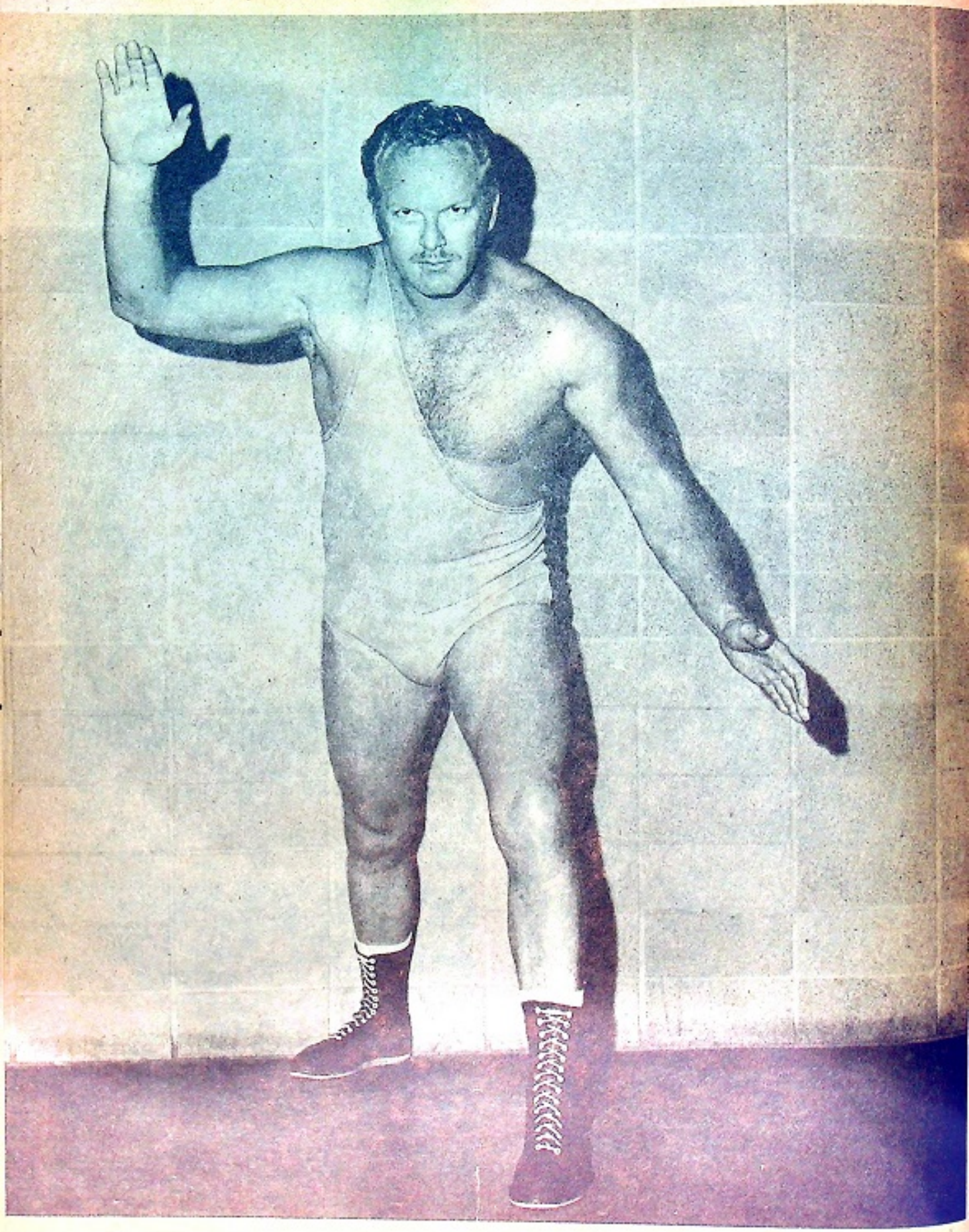
Johnny Walker, known to wrestling fans as The Rubberman because of his ability as a contorsionist, battles the masked Inferno in an excitement filled confrontation.

Superstar Jack Brisco crunches the head of Tarzan Tyler in a leg scissors during the main event on the all star card.

Flash Monroe has Bob Roop in trouble on the mat during their match, but Roop came back strong to win the battle.

J. C. Dykes, who acts like a maniac in his matches, delivers a vicious kick to the head of Jose Lothario.

Eduardo Perez has Ronnie Fuller close to a pin position in a match that saw young Fuller prove he really has what it takes to grapple with a veteran like Perez.



How BILLY "RED" LYONS Found A Partner And Won A Title All In One Night.

The Spoilers thought that they would have an easy bout when they stood in the corner wearing the belts prior to the match, but when the evening was over so was their reign as U. S. Tag Team Champions.

Tom Jones joins Red Lyons on a team that startled professional wrestling.

by Robert E. Lee

Everyone has heard of Billy "Red" Lyons. He is one of the top professional wrestlers in the world today. He has held the British Empire Championship and regional titles almost everywhere he has appeared.

Lyons, to go back a few years, was a left handed ice hockey player in school back in Toronto, Ontario. His dream, like most young boys in that section of Canada, was to become a member of the Toronto Maple Leafs. But as he grew older he turned his thoughts to wrestling.

He's been a professional for over a decade now and has been everywhere and done everything. In fact, he is so talented that the fans sometimes call him "Mr. Everything" because he knows so much about the sport. His sincere, "give all," "all-out" style in the ring perfected by his obvious excellent conditioning make him a perfect wrestler.

His red hair symbolizes a quick temper, and quick action. His handsome face makes him the heart-throb of female fans everywhere.

He's packed arenas from New York to San Francisco and from Dallas to Winnipeg. He has appeared in Australia and Japan. Everywhere he goes he is a success. The handsome six-foot two-inch redhead weighs in at 240 pounds.

In recent months a leg injury had given him some problems and he had to drop out of wrestling for several months. But an operation corrected the trouble and now he was back going strong.

He was looking for action when he received a call from the promoter in Shreveport, Louisiana, one day in May. "I've got The Spoilers signed to defend their United States Tag Team Championship on May 31st and I want you to come down here with a partner and beat them!" the promoter said. Lyons quickly agreed and set about finding a partner to challenge The Spoilers that night.

Bill started to hunt for a partner. First he telephoned Cowboy Bill Watts in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He and Watts had first teamed about four years ago in the Minnesota-Illinois area. Later they had worked together in the South Central states and for a time they had actually held the United States tag title.

Bill Watts was unavailable. He was involved in a singles heavyweight feud with Dirty Dusty Rhodes

Billy "Red" Lyons and Red Bastien were known as "The Flying Redheads" at one time, but here Bastien had a new partner in Hercules Cortez and couldn't help out Lyons.

Cowboy Bill Watts and Lyons once held the U.S. belts, but now Bill was intent on catching Dory Funk Jr. and Dusty Rhodes in singles matches and didn't want a chance at the tag title.

Rene Goulet and Lyons had formed a top tag combo, but Rene had so many bookings in Florida, he couldn't come to Lousiana to help Billy Red.

and was working hard for a match with World's Heavyweight Champion Dory Funk Jr. So, at this time Watts was only interested in heavyweight matches that would help his climb toward the title.

Next he called Rene Goulet in Tampa, Florida. However, Goulet had won the Southern Heavyweight Championship recently and was too busy defending it in Florida to come to his aid. Goulet and Lyons had been a successful team some years earlier.

Then he contacted Red Bastien in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bastien and Lyons had formed a team known as "The Flying Redheads" that was one of the most popular and most successful teams in the A. W. A. circuit two years before. He found that Bastien was now teaming with Hercules Cortez and that they were hot on the trail of the Vachone Brothers and so Bastien didn't have time to come down to Louisiana.

Lyons was almost at his wits' end. The match was only a few days away and he still needed a partner. He knew that he had the skill and ability necessary to win the title with a good partner, but where would he find that partner?

Finally he stopped calling people and started looking around at the wrestlers in the area where he was appearing. As he watched another match one night he looked closely at a young heavyweight star by the name of Tom Jones.

Lyons had seen Jones in action many times and was always impressed with his great ability. Now, however, he looked at him in a different light. "What kind of a partner would Tom Jones make for me?" he wondered.

What kind of a partner indeed. Maybe Lyons wasn't aware of all the facts of Jones' life that night, but in a capsule they look like this:

Tom was born in Detroit, Michigan. He came from a poor family and one of his biggest disappointments in life was that he didn't get a better education. Tom's family was so poor that he found out in early life that the only way to get something he wanted was to fight for it. When professional wrestling became his avenue to success, Tom fought his way all the way to the top.

He is one of the first black wrestling superstars. And he is probably the first one to win his success in the tough southern United States. Although many black wrestling stars from the North were reluctant to work in the South, Tom found that he had little friction in wrestling because of his color. There is something about Tom Jones that commands respect from fans and wrestlers alike. He likes wrestling and he likes people and the fans and people like him.

He is a tough, exciting wrestler, but he respects the rules of wrestling and of life and this probably has made him the success that he is. He has held regional titles in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. No other black athlete can make that claim. Many wrestling experts say that he is the top black wrestler in the sport today.

(Continued on page 56)

by LIL AL VAVASSEUR

ANN CASEY
THE BEAUTY WHO LOVES WRESTLING

They call her "Miss Body Beautiful" and if you ever see her in action you will know why right away. The sultry thirty-year-old brunette has been wrestling for about five years and has proved she has a lot more than beauty to offer in the wrestling ring. In fact, she now holds the Mississippi State Women's Championship and is recognized as one of the leading, if not the very top, contenders to the World's Women's Championship.

Women's wrestling has been dominated by the likes of Mildred Burke, June Byers, and Fabulous Moolah this century. The first two named have retired, and Moolah no longer is in her prime. Now that we are well into the 1970's there is no girl dominating the sport, but Ann Casey appears to be well on her way into that position.

They used to say that a top women grappler could defeat some of her counterparts in the opposite sex. No, Ann hasn't wrestled and defeated any men yet, but in the South, tag out matches have become very popular and Ann Casey is one of the best in these.

A tag out match is a tag team bout with a man and a woman on each team. Any time there is a tag both wrestlers change so that there is always man vs. man or woman vs. woman in the ring. At least that is how it is supposed to be.

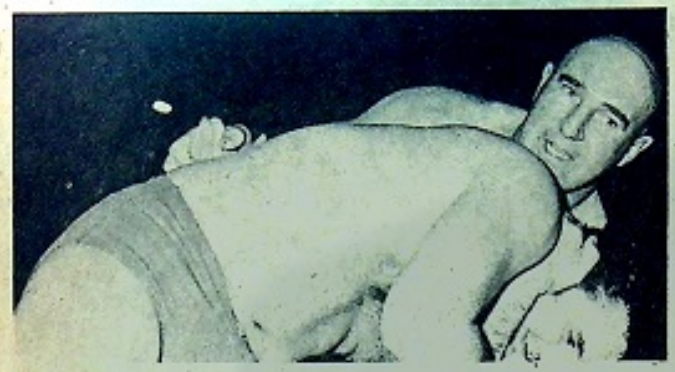
However, Ann Casey goes all out and does as much damage to either of the opponents whenever she can. When the men are wrestling Ann is liable to try to get a few licks in against her partner's opponent just as you see happen in an all-male tag team match.

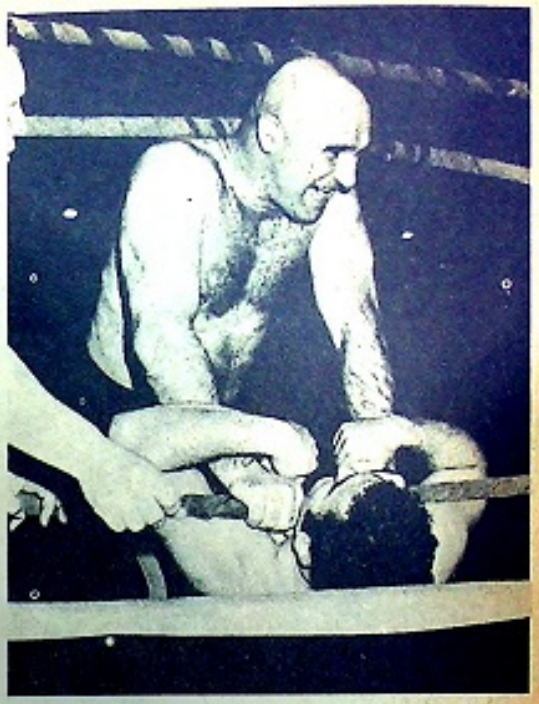
Because of her great wrestling skill, many male wrestlers ask for her to partner them in tag out matches. Their reasoning is simple. They want to be on the winning side and one of the ways to accomplish this is to have a winning girl wrestler on your side. In the South where tag out matches are

(Continued on page 55)

Ann uses the hair of Fifi LaVerne to grip and throw her to the mat.

Hans threw Curry across the ring, and dominated much of the action throughout the match. The German proved he still could handle a young top grappler.

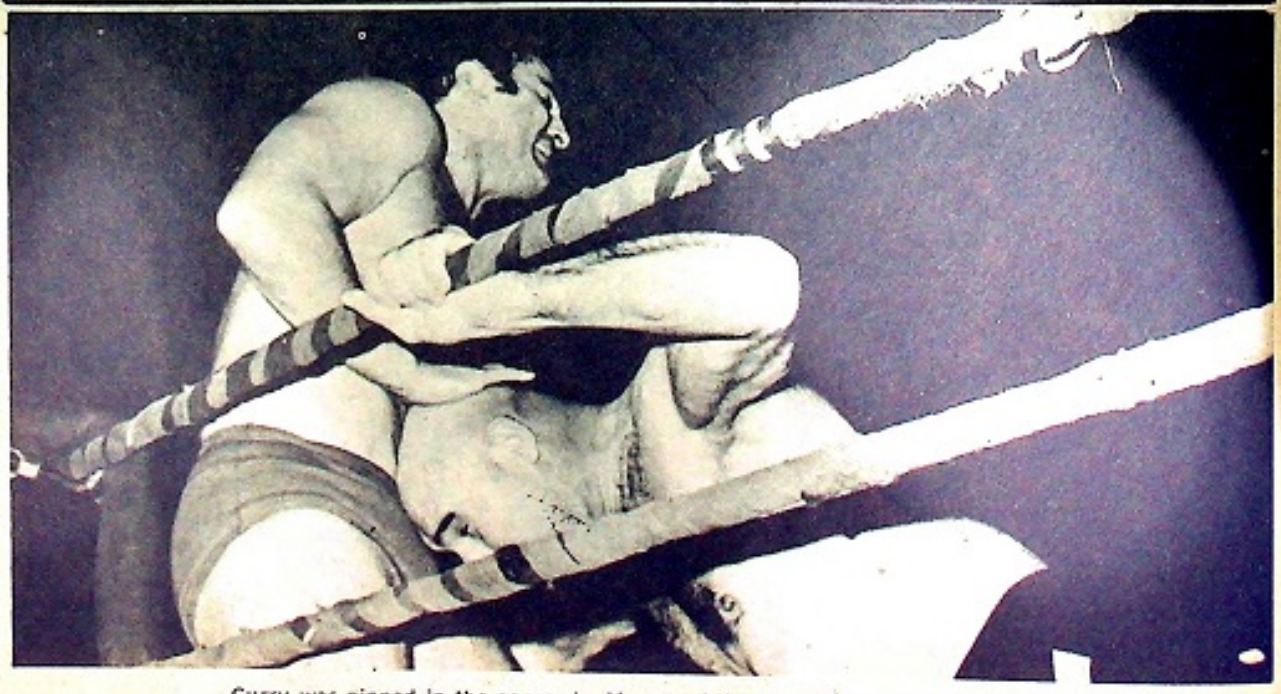




But, at the end of the night, Hans left the ring in a furious rage, a loser knowing he would not get another chance at The Sheik.

THE GERMAN'S BURNING DESIRE

VETERAN HANS SCHMIDT IS STILL GOING STRONG!



Curry was pinned in the corner by Hans, and then the German went to work on Fred's stomach with his hard, bald head.

BY GARY ROWELL

The phone buzzed for several minutes. Finding his call unanswered, the caller impatiently hung up. Several minutes later the caller tried again. This time the phone buzzed for about ten seconds before it was lifted from the cradle. The caller heard a distant voice say, "Hello, this is Francis Fleser speaking. . ."

A smile crossed the craggy face of the bald headed German, Hans Schmidt. Hans had a very special reason for making the long distance call. He wanted to ask a favor of the Detroit promoter.

After they had exchanged friendly greetings, Hans explained that he had been sidelined for quite awhile due to an injury suffered at the hands of the notorious, insane Arab, the Sheik, the reigning U.S. Heavyweight Champion. Hans assured the promoter that he was now fully recuperated and he was now ready to settle the score and perhaps at the same time dethrone the Sheik.

At first, Fleser tried to talk Schmidt out of the bout, for he was fully aware of the fact that if he matched the terrible temper of the German and the wild antics of the Sheik, it would probably result in a bloody riot.

Hans interrupted Fleser to remind him that he had never turned down a request from the Detroit promoter to appear on any of his Motor City cards during the past several years. Again Hans asked the favor, explaining how important this one match would be.

Finally after several minutes, Fleser relented—but, only under one condition.

Hans listened intently to the condition put forth by the promoter. Upon hearing the condition, Hans was outraged! But, before he hung up the phone, he said he would be in Detroit the following day to sign the contract.

What was the condition that had infuriated Hans so much?

Well, it seems that several weeks earlier, the Sheik had wrestled Flying Fred Curry in a title bout in Detroit. The match had a disputed ending with both wrestlers claiming the title. Promoter Fleser had promised a return showdown between the two claimants to settle the dispute once and for all. But due to the Sheik's nationwide bookings, Fleser was unable to get the Sheik and Curry back together again. The Sheik was to make only one appearance in the Detroit area in the next couple of months. So, the title shot belonged to Curry.

The condition that Fleser had proposed to Schmidt was quite simple—he must beat Curry first to get his chance at the Sheik.

Hans was boiling mad. He had proved his worth in just about every ring in the world during his long mat career and he felt that he was lowering himself to wrestle "that young upstart."

Hans arrived in Michigan to find that the Curry-Schmidt bout was already signed by Promoter Hank Steinert for the Saginaw Auditorium.

WRESTLING MONTHLY, when informed of the pending bout, arranged to have wrestling photographer G. J. Rowell at ringside to photograph the title contenders' clash. As you can see from the resulting photographs, the bout was a furious, hard-fought battle.

Much to Hans' dismay, he learned too late that all main events in Michigan are one fall affairs because of a special ruling handed down by the Michigan Athletic Commission.

Hans not only went home with an empty pocketbook, but an unfulfilled burning desire for revenge. For the Sheik's sake, we hope the match is made soon, before the German's desire for revenge destroys the both of them!

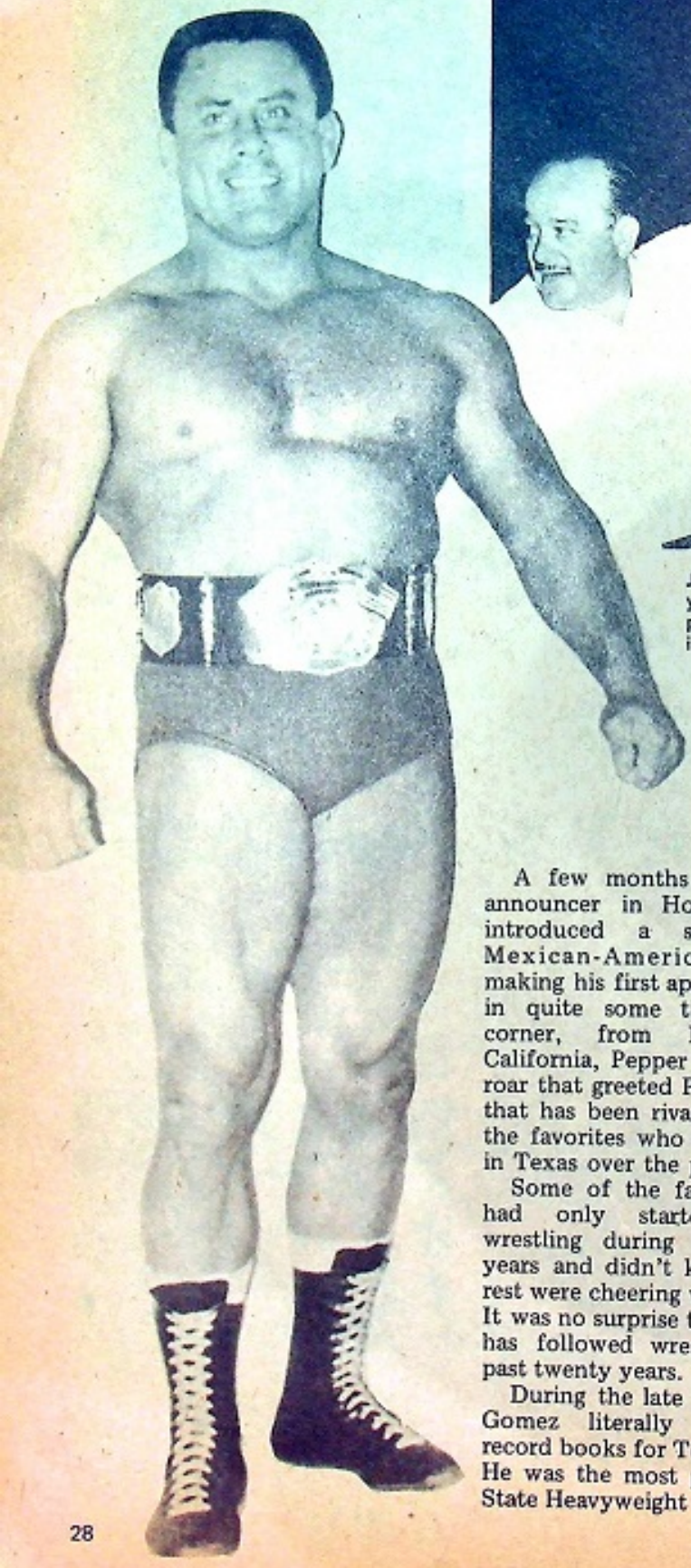
Curry retaliated with a roundhouse to the head, and that made a raging maniac out of Schmidt.

Hans and Fred took their battle to the ring ropes, and the match was won by Curry when he again used his head on Fred's stomach. This time the referee was counting both men out on the ropes and the force of Schmidt's blow threw curry back into the ring. Before Hans could return he was counted out and the match went to Kirby.

TEXAS AND PEPPER

Ten years after,

by JOHN BROOKS RANDOLPH



Jose Lothario and Pepper Gomez held sway for several years as tag team champions on the Pacific Coast. They are pictured here with their trophy they held in the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

A few months ago the ring announcer in Houston, Texas, introduced a small, stocky Mexican-American wrestler making his first appearance there in quite some time. "In this corner, from Los Angeles, California, Pepper Gomez." The roar that greeted Pepper was one that has been rivaled by few of the favorites who have appeared in Texas over the past few years.

Some of the fans at ringside had only started following wrestling during the past few years and didn't know why the rest were cheering with such zest. It was no surprise to anyone who has followed wrestling for the past twenty years.

During the late 1950's Pepper Gomez literally rewrote the record books for Texas wrestling. He was the most popular Texas State Heavyweight Champion the Lone Star state has even seen.

Then he left Texas to campaign in other areas and you would have thought the fans would forget him. They might have in the case of some ordinary favorite, but Pepper has never been ordinary in any way.

But before we continue on the triumphant return to Texas, let's look at what Pepper has been doing for the past decade. The town that crops up most frequently is San Francisco. The city had a wrestling revolution about ten years ago under Promoter Roy Shires and since that time sell-out followed by sell-out has taken place in the Bay City's Cow Palace. And the biggest reasons for those turnaway crowds has been little Pepper Gomez.

First he teamed up with Jose Lothario to virtually dominate

Pepper Gomez returns to Texas a bigger star than ever!

professional wrestling in Northern California. In the 1960's, Pepper and Jose were ranked as one of the very best teams in the world. In fact, most of the time they were ranked Number One. And when he wasn't tag teaming, Pepper was the top rival to Ray Stevens who held the U.S. Heavyweight Championship at that time. In fact he won the title from Stevens and held it for a time.

He became one of San Francisco's favorite athletes. Actually, he is better known than any of the members of the major league teams in the Bay area. Restaurant owners would pay him to come and eat in their establishments because they knew that anywhere Pepper went a crowd was sure to follow.

So Pepper spent the 1960's in San Francisco. He missed Texas and came back for an occasional visit, but he always left his heart in the city of the Golden Gate.

Then came the decade of the 1970's. Pepper decided that ten years is enough in any city and decided to branch out and wrestle in other areas. First he chose the tough midwest A. W. A. circuit and proved he still had the same old magic by becoming an overnight hit in cities like Denver, Chicago, Winnipeg, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee. He wrestled mainly in singles bouts there, but had an excellent record with Edouard Carpentier and later with Red Bastien in tag affairs.

Finally after a year in the midwest he made his decision. He had been receiving offers from Texas promoters to return and felt that the time was ripe. He couldn't have made a better decision.

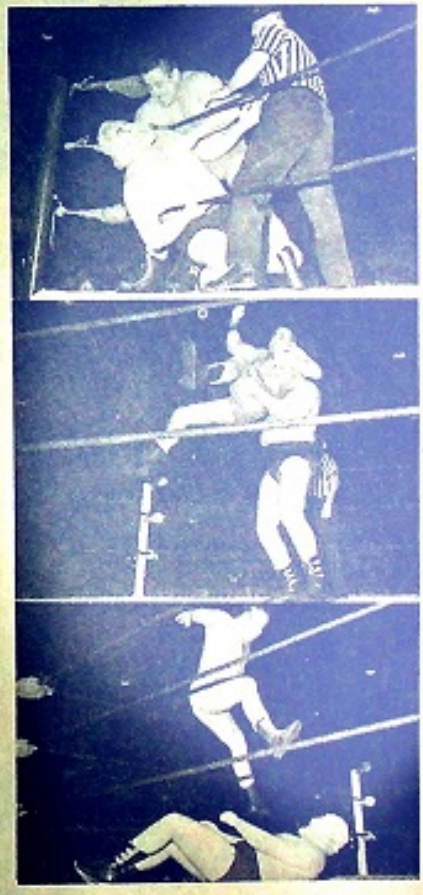
Texas welcomed him back with open arms and they have been cheering him on ever since he returned. Against the likes of Killer Kowalski, The Alaskan, Bob Orton, Joe Blanchard, Toru Tanaka, George Scott, Jack Bence, Tim Woods, Chris Markoff, and Johnny Valentine—some of the roughest wrestlers in Texas or anywhere else in the world, Pepper proved that he could still hold his own against the very best they had to offer.

More than that, Pepper proved that he was still number one in the hearts of the Texas wrestling fans.

The romance between Pepper and Texas is growing stronger every day. Sure there are the alluring offers from San Francisco and Chicago that pour in all the time. But for now Pepper is content with Texas.

He probably won't stay there forever. Certainly anyone who ever succumbs to the magic of San Francisco has to return there again some day. But Pepper and Texas are one right now and it will probably be a long time before they ever separate for more than a few weeks or months at a time.

In the early 1960's, Pepper posed for this shot with his Texas Heavyweight Championship belt and two of his fans outside the ring in Houston, Texas.

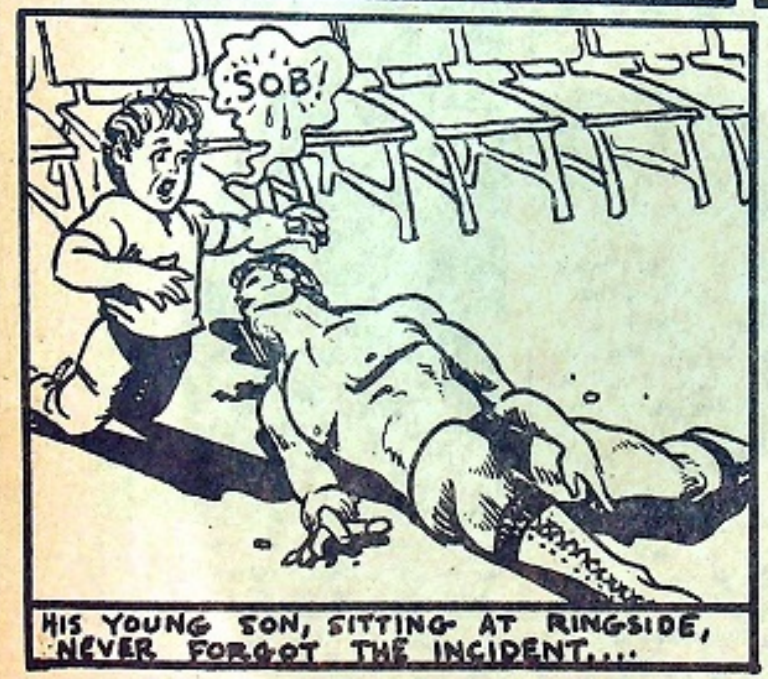


Pepper was probably the most popular wrestler in Denver in 1970. These photos of him in action against Crazy Luke Graham were taken by Denver promoter Gene Reed, who says he will book Pepper into his city at any opportunity.

In Chicago, Pepper teamed with Red Bastien against The Kangaroos in a match that sold out the International Amphitheatre. Here George Cannon, manager of The Kangaroos, looks on as pepper assists Bastien after the first fall.

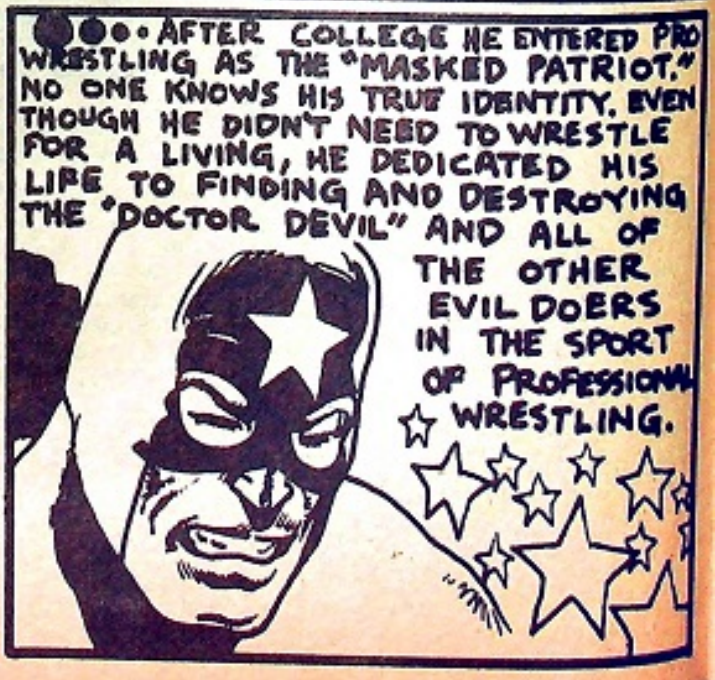
THE PATRIOT
ILLUSTRATED BY JERRY LAWLER

THE PATRIOT IS THE SON OF A FAMOUS PRO WRESTLER WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF BEING ILLEGALY THROWN OVER THE TOP ROPE BY "DOCTOR DEVIL"

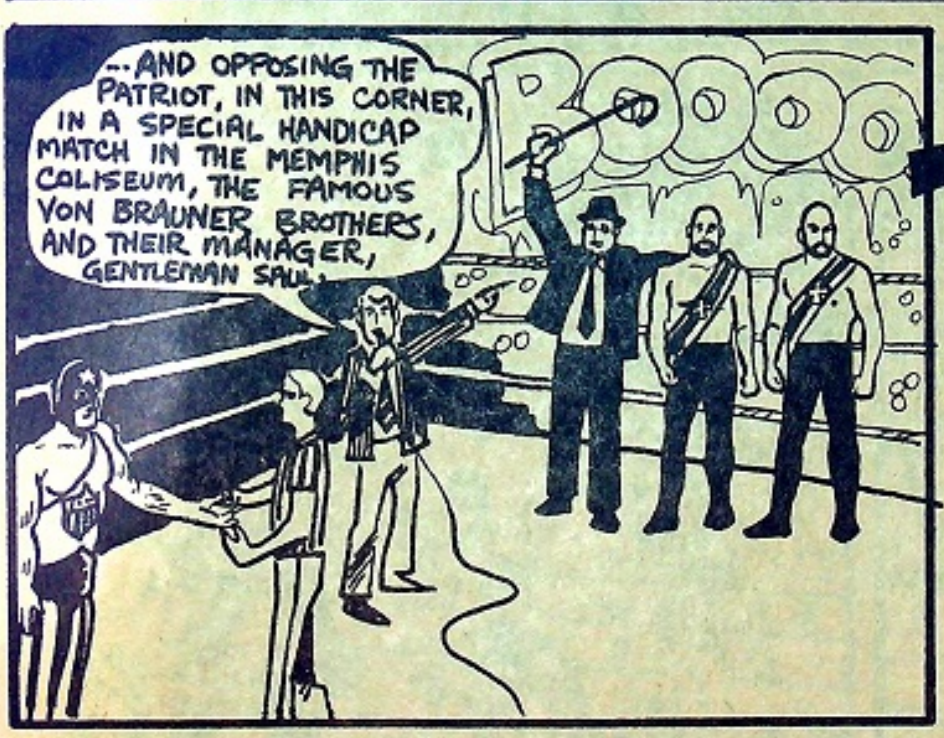

SOB!
HIS YOUNG SON, SITTING AT RINGSIDE, NEVER FORGOT THE INCIDENT...

DOCTOR DEVIL RAN FROM THE ARENA AND WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN!

POINT!
HIS FATHER LEFT HIM OVER A MILLION DOLLARS IN WRESTLING EARNINGS, AND THE YOUNG BOY GREW UP TO BECOME A NATIONAL AAU AND NCAA WRESTLING CHAMP IN COLLEGE.


...AFTER COLLEGE HE ENTERED PRO WRESTLING AS THE "MASKED PATRIOT." NO ONE KNOWS HIS TRUE IDENTITY. EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T NEED TO WRESTLE FOR A LIVING, HE DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO FINDING AND DESTROYING THE "DOCTOR DEVIL" AND ALL OF THE OTHER EVIL DOERS IN THE SPORT OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

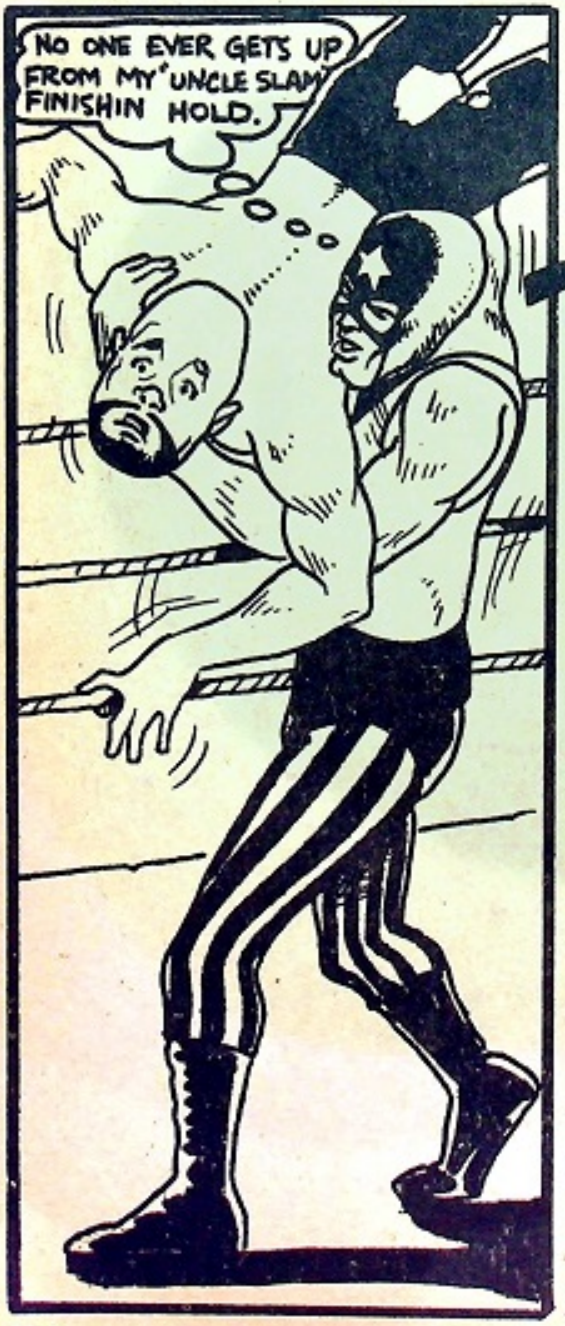
★THE 'PATRIOT'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO REMOVE ALL EVIL FROM PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING. HE HAS BECOME THE HERO BEHIND WHO ALL TRUE WRESTLING FANS RALLY. THE COMMON MAN IDENTIFIES WITH THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE MASKED MAN IN HIS NEVER ENDING FIGHT FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE IN THE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING RING....



BUT AT THE LAST SECOND, PATRIOT DUCKS

SAUL THROWS THE FIREBALL RIGHT AT THE PATRIOTS FACE...

AND KURT GETS THE FIREBALL IN THE FACE!



NEXT MONTH, THE "PATRIOT" MEETS BLACK JACK LANZA IN CHICAGO'S INTERNATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE!

CIRCUIT CLOSE-UPS

WORLD CHAMPIONS

The following men are the only World Champions recognized by the various wrestling alliances. There may be other title claimants, and regional titles recognized by various booking offices, but the men listed here are the only World Champions recognized by the entire alliance. In the section on each office we will indicate to which alliance the office belongs and that will determine which World Champions that office recognizes. The regional titleholders will be listed with the office where they are recognized.

AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE
WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION : VERNE GAGNE
WORLD'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS : RED BASTIEN & HERCULES CORTEZ

—

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE
WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION : DORY FUNK JR.
WORLD'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION : DANNY HODGE
WORLD'S LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION : EL SOLITARIO

—

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION
WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION : PEDRO MORALES

LOS ANGELES BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

JOHN TOLOS DON CARSON

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: John Tolos, Tag Team: Shibuya & Saito

Mike LeBelle heads up the Olympic Wrestling Club with their main shows weekly at the Olympic Auditorium. Among the top grapplers in his area at the present time are Kinji Shibuya, Mr. Saito, Bull Ramos, Rocky Johnson, Peter Maivia, Suni War Cloud, Ray Mendoza, El Solitario, Black Gordman, Earl Maynard, Goliath, Mil Mascaras, and Don Carson. A newcomer is El Sicodelico, the brother of Mil Mascaras. Fans hope to see Fred Blassie in action here again soon and LeBelle is attempting to sign El Solitario to defend the World Light Heavyweight title. —

SAN FRANCISCO BOOKING OFFICE — N. W. A. CHAMPIONS:

DeMARCO PAMPERO FIRPO

Heavyweight: Paul DeMarco Tag Team: Pat Patterson & Billy Graham

The top stars now appearing in San Francisco's Cow Palace and throughout northern California for promoter Roy Shires include Ray Stevens, Pepper Martin, Mighty Brutus, Tony Parisi, Peter Maivia, Rocky Johnson, Pampero Firpo, Paul DeMarco managed by Dr. Ken Ramey, Len Shelly, Stan Neilson, Pat Barrett, and Bull Ramos.

VANCOUVER BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

GENE KINISKI . MOROWSKI

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Gene Kiniski Tag Team: Steve Littlebear & Dean Higuchi

Sandor Kovacs in Vancouver is the promoter. His top stars include Don Leo Jonathan, Erich Froelich, Moose Morowski, the Skull Brothers, Angelo Mosca, Duncan McTavish, Steve Littlebear, Dean Higuchi, and Gene Kiniski.

PORTLAND BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

Heavyweight: Kurt von Steiger Tag Team: Kurt & Karl von Steiger

Don Owens books the top wrestling in this area. Among the regulars are Frankie Lain, Kurt & Karl von Steiger, Stan Stasiak, The Beast, Tony Borne, Pat O'Brien, Haru Sasaki, Beauregarde, Johnny Boyd.

WRIGHT CURTIS IAUKEA

Edmund Francis has one of the top wrestling circuits in the country. Not only does he have men like Haystack Calhoun, Bearcat Wright, Lonnie Maye, Ripper Collins, Curtis Iaukea, Don Muraco, Sam Steamboat, Rocky Montero, and The Gladiator appearing regularly in the islands, but Hawaii has become the stopping place for most grapplers going to and from the mainland to Japan.

PHOENIX BOOKING OFFICE—No alliance connections.

Ernie Mohamed and Al Fenn run small time wrestling cards on a regular basis here. Their main star is Tito Montez, with Bob Ellis coming in occasionally to lend luster to the cards.

AMARILLO BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Terry Funk Tag Team: Bobby Duncum & Woody Farmer. Throughout western Texas, the home circuit of World Champ Dory Funk Jr., there are top wrestling cards. Dory Jr. is on the road most of the time, but Dory Sr., Terry, and a host of other top stars like Bobby Duncum, Woody Farmer,

Lorenzo Parente, Bobby Hart, Seiji Sakaguchi, Butcher Brower, The Beast, Nick Kozak, The Spartan, Ricky Romero, Ciclon Negro, and Duke Meyer keep things hot.

CALGARY BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

CHAMPION: Les Thornton

Stu Hart continues to make Alberta a top wrestling center. Les Thornton, Bob Sweetan, Gil Hayes, Johnny War Lance, Dan Kroffat, Carlos Belafonte, Black Angus Campbell, Bill Cody, Bob Pirie, Great Moki, and Nano Ortega are reasons why.

MINNEAPOLIS BOOKING OFFICE – A.W.A.

BOCKWINKEL

BULLINSKI

Wally Karbo heads up what is probably the largest circuit in the country. He promotes in Minneapolis and is co-promoter with Harvey Solon in Duluth, Gene Reed in Denver, Bob Luce in Chicago, Dennis Hilgart in Milwaukee, Duaine Hoberg in Fargo, Don Marxen in Davenport, Eddie Williams in St. Paul, and John Guglyn in Winnipeg. Top stars here include besides the A.W.A. champions: Mad Dog Vachon, Butcher Vachon, Vivian Vachon, Billy Robinson, The Crusher, Nick Bockwinkel, Bull Bullinski, Art Thomas, Joe Scarpello, The Big "K", Don Moracco, Luscious Lars Anderson, and Pretty Boy Larry Hennig.

DETROIT BOOKING OFFICE – N.W.A.

BOBO BRAZIL

THE SHEIK

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Bobo Brazil Tag Team: Vacant.

The regulars on the spectaculars of Francis Fleser are The Sheik, Bobo Brazil, The Stomper, Sweet Daddy Siki, Bull Johnson, Wild Bull Curry, Tex McKenzie, Jess Ortega, The Kangaroos managed by George Cannon, Dewey Robertson, Murry Cummings, Lou Klein, John Quinn, Hank James, Whipper Watson Jr., Lord Layton, Black Jack Mulligan, Fred Curry, Mitsu Arakawa, Yoshino Sato, Igor, and Ivan Kalmikoff. These same wrestlers also appear on the cards of Frank Tunney in Toronto.

CLEVELAND BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

von ERICH

JOHNNY POWERS

CHAMPIONS: HEAVYWEIGHT: Johnny Powers Tag Team: The Mongols

The top grapplers here are Johnny Powers, Ernie Ladd, The Mongols, Victor Rivera, Dom DeNucci, Oscar Verdu, Bill Miller, Ivan Koloff, Waldo von Erich, Erik the Red, Vic Rossettani, Pete Sanchez, and many of the wrestlers from the Detroit-Toronto circuit drop in here regularly. Pedro Martinez of Buffalo, N.Y., uses these same grapplers on his cards in northern New York.

PITTSBURGH BOOKING OFFICE—W.W.W.F.

SAMMARTINO

RIVERA

The top grapplers on the Pittsburgh circuit are Bruno Sammartino, The Mongols, Victor Rivera, Dom DeNucci, Oscar Verdue, Bill Miller, Ivan Koloff, Waldo von Erich, Erik the Red, Vic Rossettani, Pete Sanchez, and Johnny DeFazio. Bruno Sammartino & Dom DeNucci and The Mongols are engaged in a feud with the tag team title at stake.

MONTREAL BOOKING OFFICE

This city has two promotions. In this one the top stars are John Rougeau, Tony Baillargeon, Eddie Auger, Jacques Rougeau, Gino Britto, Paul LeDuc, Pierre LaBelle, Don Serrano, Chin Lee, and Sugi Sito.

MONTREAL WRESTLING OFFICE—A.W.A.

VACHON

CARPENTIER

This office started promotion in May of this year. Their first card was held in Maurice Richard Arena in Montreal. The card was a success, but for some reason the Montreal athletic commission decided to suspend the license of promoter Gary Legault and allow only the Rougeau promotion to continue in business in Montreal. However, the A.W.A. group was not stopped, but moved its cards to Verdun where they have been drawing top crowds. Among the favorites who appear on these cards are Mad Dog Vachon, Butcher Vachon, Dale Roberts, Gerry Brown, Edouard Carpentier, Yvon Robert Jr., Billy Two Rivers, Gilles Poisson, Reggie Park, Pierre LeMarin, Pat Girard, The Destroyer, Denis Gauthier, Ricky Ferrara, Cowboy Jones, Jean Ferre, Claude "Hercules" Dassary, and The Professional.

WASHINGTON, D.C., BOOKING OFFICE—W.W.W.F.

LUKE GRAHAM

TYLER

Vince McMahon presents top wrestling throughout the northeast. His monthly card at Madison Square Garden is usually SRO, and Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, and the rest of the cities in the area do well also. Top draw is Pedro Morales. New tag team combination of Luke Graham and Tarzan Tyler claim tag title. Others in the area are Beautiful Bobby, managed by the Grand Wizard, Bruno Sammartino, Black Jack Mulligan, Jay Strongbow, Gorilla Monsoon, Jimmy Vallient, Mike Pappas, The Black Demon, and Manuel Soto. The Garden cards are augmented by appearances of wrestlers from other areas, like Eddie Graham, Bob Roop, and The Kangaroos.

CHARLOTTE BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

ANDERSON

HAMILTON

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Rocky "Missouri Mauler" Hamilton Tag

Team: Rip Hawk & Swede Hanson.
Jim Crockett promotes wrestling throughout the Carolinas and Virginia. His top stars are Rocky Hamilton, Rip Hawk & Swede Hanson managed by Gary Hart, George Becker, Johnny Weaver, Masked Marauders, Paul Jones, Nelson Royal, Sandy Scott, Jerry Brisco, Abe Jacobs, Luther Lindsay, Brute Bernard, Gene Anderson, Kurt von Stroheim, Tommy Seigler, and Vittorio Apollo.

ATLANTA BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

EL MONGOL

BUDDY COLT

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Mongol Tag Team: The Assassins
Veteran Paul Jones runs one of the top promotions in the country with his top weekly show in Atlanta. Top stars are The Pro, Dick Steinborn, Kubla Khan, Flash and Rocket Monroe, Ray Gunkel, Buddy Fuller, Bill Dromo, Guillotine Gordon, Buddy Colt, Billy Spears, Fidel Castillo, El Mongol, and The Assassins.

TAMPA WRESTLING OFFICE—N.W.A.

DICK MURDOCK

JACK BRISCO

CHAMPION: Jack Brisco
The top stars in this area are Dick Murdock, Duke Keomuka, Hiro Matsuda, Rene Goulet, Great Malenko, Jose Lothario, The Grappler, Johnny Walker, Robert & Ronald Fuller, Ronnie Garvin, Jerry Brisco, Jack Brisco, Louie Tillet, Bob Roop, Ken Lusk, Mr. Ota, Lester & Roy Welch, Dick Murdock, and Mr. Okuma.

MOBILE BOOKING OFFICE
This group has weekly wrestling cards in many cities in the Gulf Coast area. Top stars include Bobby Shane, Bobby Fields, Mike Boyette, The Pro, Bob Boyer, Greg Peterson, Dick Dunn, and Lee Fields.

ST. JOSEPH BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

RUFUS R. JONES

HARLEY RACE

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Harley Race Tag Team: Bob Orton & Buddy Austin.
The top stars here are Danny Little Bear, Rufus R. Jones, Bob Geigel, Pat O'Connor, Ronnie Etchison, Steve Bolus, Baron von Raschke, Baron von Heisinger, The Stomper, The Viking, Ben Justice, Bobby Whitlock, Harley Race, Buddy Austin, and Bob Orton.

TULSA BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

DUSTY RHODES

BILL WATTS

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Dusty Rhodes Tag Team: Billy "Red" Lyons & Tom Jones.
Matchmaker LeRoy McGuirk promotes wrestling in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, and Mississippi. His top stars are Danny Hodge, Bill Watts, Dale Lewis, Grizzly Smith, Billy "Red" Lyons, Tom Jones, Ramon Torres, John Gagne, Silento Rodriguez, Anthony Rocca, Buck Ramstead, The Spoiler, Bobby Whitlock, Bob Boyer, Dusty Rhodes, Doctor "X", Rip Kirby, Mephisto, Vic Muehller, Terry Garvin managed by his brother Jim, Pancho "Gypsy Joe" Rosario, Chati Yokuchi, Yasu Fuji, Apache Gringo, and Frank Diamond.

NASHVILLE BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

von BRAUNER

DONOVAN

Promoters Nick Gulas and Roy Welch present weekly cards in Nashville, Tupelo, Birmingham and Memphis. The top stars currently in that area are Pepe Lopez, Big Bad John, The Samoans, Dennis Hall, Jim Golden, Fred Curry, Kurt and Karl von Brauner managed by Gentlemen Saul, Omar Atlas, Tinker Todd, Len Rossi, Bearcat Brown, and the Doctor Deaths.

DALLAS BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

McDANIEL

FRITZ von ERICH

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Wahoo McDaniel Tag Team: Christo Markoff & Bronco Lubich.
Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi all boast of weekly wrestling cards. Paul Boesh of Houston probably has the biggest gates here. Top stars are Fritz von Erich, Joe Blanchard, Pro, Tanaka, Thunderbolt Patterson, Johnny Valentine, Christo Markoff & Bronco Lubich managed by George Harris III., Tim Woods, George Scott, Mil Mascaras, Pepper Gomez, Gorgeous George Jr., and Benji Ramirez.

OMAHA BOOKING OFFICE – A.W.A.

TORRES

JERRY MILLER

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: The Claw.
Promoter Joe Dusek and everyone in the area is still in shock over the death of Alberto Torres as a result of injuries suffered in a match with The Claw. Wrestling Monthly and everyone connected with the sport can only share the grief. Others in the area are: Cow Boy Bob Ellis, Bill Miller, Treach Phillips, Jerry Miller, Ali Ben Khan, Mad Dog Vachon, Butcher Vachon, Red Bastien, Hercules Cortez, Buddy Lynn, Ox Baker, and John Lee.

ST. LOUIS BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

PAT O'CONNOR

VALENTINE

Promoter Sam Muchnick has great cards about once a month in Kiel

(Continued on page 37)

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CIRCUIT CLOSEUPS
(Continued from page 35)

Auditorium. The top stars on them include Dory Funk Jr., Johnny Valentine, Black Jack Lanza, Bill Miller, Jack Brisco, Pat O'Connor, Harley Race, Dewey Robertson, Rufus R. Jones, Hans Schmidt, Sato, Sweet Daddy Siki, Princess Partlow, Betty Nicoli, Mickey Doyle, Luis Martinez, Gene Madrid, Steve Bolus, and Greg Valentine.

INDIANAPOLIS BOOKING OFFICE—A.W.A.

THE BRUISER

WILBUR SNYDER

CHAMPIONS: Tag Team: Wilbur Snyder & Yukon Moose Cholak

Bob Luce, the promoter of Indianapolis and various spots in Indiana as well as Chicago, has these top stars working for him: Wilbur Snyder, Moose Cholak, Don & Johnny Fargo, Baron von Raschke, Prince Pullins, The Kangaroos, Billy Miller, Angelo Poffo, Johnny Kace, Paul Christy, Hans Schmidt, Bobo Brazil, and Ernie Ladd.

ST. JOHN'S WRESTLING OFFICE—N.W.A.

RUDY KAY

ERIC POMEROY

CHAMPION: Eric Pomeroy

Top wrestling stars now appearing in New Brunswick include Leo Burk, Eric Pomeroy, Rudy Kay, Bobby Kay, Oki Shikina, Freddy Sweetan, Tony Ramono, Abe Jacobs, Pedro Godoy, The Beast, Joe Soto, Leo Robert, and Alex Medina.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, BOOKING OFFICE—N.W.A.

MARK LEWIN

BOB BROWN

There are quite a few top Australian stars appearing on the cards of Jim Barnett in the land down under. The leading American grapplers include Mark Lewin, Killer Kowalski, Bob Brown, and Mario Milano.

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING ENTERPRISE—JAPAN—A.W.A.

KOBAYASHI

LANZA

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Strong Kobayashi

I.W.A. President Isao Yoshihara has built this organization into a major league group since it joined the A.W.A. a few years ago. His organization was boosted by the win of Strong Kobayashi over Dr. Bill Miller for the A.W.A. International title. Kobayashi brought the title back from America to Japan. Another strong point of the promotion was an innovation of matching two top foreign grapplers. Most Japanese promoters stick exclusively to a Japanese vs. foreigner format, but a recent match between Billy Robinson vs. Karl Gotch was one of the biggest hits in Japanese history. Their Big Summer Series now going on features Kobayashi, Jack Claybourne, Black Jack Lanza and manager Bobby Heenan, Chuck Karbo, Johnny Kace, Great Kusatsu, Rusher Masao Kimura, and Thunder Sugiyama among others.

JAPANESE WRESTLING ASSOCIATION—N.W.A.

CHAMPIONS: Heavyweight: Giant Baba Tag Team: Yoshimura & Inoki.

This group recently saw Ivan Koloff, Bob Sweetan, Danny Hodge, Dutch Savage, and Fred Blassie. Next scheduled are Igor Vodik, Chris Markoff, Jack Brisco, Victor Rivera, George Steele, Don Savage, Art Maharik, and Fidel Castillo. The Japanese grapplers include Big Saka, Giant Baba, Mr. Ito, Kanji Inoki, Yoshimura, Oki Kintaro, and Kojica.

JAPANESE WOMEN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: Aiko Kyo

TEXAS RED

PATTY O'HARA

Other top Japanese female wrestlers are Miyamoto, Murata, Hoshino, Akagi, Masked Killer, and Tomoe.

MILWAUKEE WRESTLING PROMOTER

by KATHY SZALEWSKI

Dennis Hilgart was born on April 2, 1939 and was raised in Park Falls, Wisconsin. He attended school in Park Falls and later the University of Wisconsin — Milwaukee.

As promoter his job is an important one. Not only does his job involve getting the wrestling matches signed, it also involves traveling many miles to such cities as Minneapolis, Denver and Rockford, Illinois, taking care of the tickets, calling the newspapers and arranging interviews.

Five years ago he started promoting wrestling in Milwaukee, drawing a crowd of about 2000 people. As the years have gone by attendance has grown tremendously making Milwaukee one of the largest wrestling cities in the country. There have been many sellout crowds in the Auditorium and a Hilgart promotion broke the record at the Arena with a sellout crowd of 12,076 fans. For this fabulous record Hilgart deserved and was given The Wrestling News award for "Promoter of the Year" for 1969.

Besides being a wrestling promoter he also works in connection with radio station WYLO, bringing the finest country-western shows to Milwaukee.

In addition, he is a wrestling fan himself. He enjoys watching football too. When he has a few spare moments, he likes to go hunting and fishing in Northern Wisconsin where he also has a beef ranch.

T. V. WRESTLING GUIDE

In this section we attempt to list every television wrestling show in the world. Although we have a fairly complete listing, the changeable nature of television schedules makes it impossible for us to be sure that it is complete and up to date. Therefore, we request that our readers help us by letting us know of any changes in the television schedule in their area, and of any shows that we have failed to list or listed incorrectly.

CHANNEL	CALL LETTERS	DAY	CITY	TIME
ALABAMA				
19	WHNT	Saturday	Huntsville	4:00 P.M.
40	WHMA	Saturday	Anniston	4:00 P.M.
33	WCFT	Saturday	Tuscaloosa	5:00 P.M.
42	WBMG	Saturday	Birmingham	10:00 P.M.
40	WHMA	Wednesday	Anniston	10:30 P.M.
4	WTVY	Saturday	Dothan	4:30 P.M.
32	WKAB	Saturday	Montgomery	10:15 P.M.
ARIZONA				
21	KPAZ	Thursday	Phoenix	7:00 P.M.
11	KZAZ	Sunday	Nogales	5:00 P.M.
ARKANSAS				
11	KTHV	Saturday	Little Rock	1:30 P.M.
10	KTVE	Saturday	El Dorado	4:00 P.M.
5	KFSA	Saturday	Fort Smith	12:00 P.M.
8	KAIT	Saturday	Jonesboro	1:00 P.M.
8	KAIT	Sunday	Jonesboro	1:00 P.M.
CALIFORNIA				
13	KCOP	Saturday	Los Angeles	7:00 P.M.
34	KMEX	Saturday	Los Angeles	10:00 A.M.
34	KMEX	Wednesday	Los Angeles	8:00 P.M.
40	KLXA	Friday	Los Angeles	8:05 P.M.
40	KTLX	Saturday	Sacramento	5:00 P.M.
36	KGSC	Saturday	San Jose	9:00 P.M.
44	KBHK	Saturday	San Francisco	5:00 P.M.
40	KTLX	Sunday	Sacramento	4:00 P.M.
COLORADO				
4	KOA	Saturday	Denver	4:00 P.M.
5	KOAA	Saturday	Pueblo	4:00 P.M.
5	KOAA	Friday	Pueblo	3:30 P.M.
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA				
20	WDCA	Saturday	Washington	9:30 A.M.
20	WDCA	Saturday	Washington	4:30 P.M.
FLORIDA				
3	WEAR	Saturday	Pensacola	10:00 P.M.
12	WFGA	Saturday	Jacksonville	1:00 P.M.
6	WCTV	Saturday	Tallahassee	5:00 P.M.
5	WPTV	Saturday	Palm Beach	1:00 P.M.
23	WLTV	Saturday	Miami	3:00 P.M.
6	WCIX	Saturday	Miami	4:00 P.M.
9	WFTV	Saturday	Orlando	2:30 P.M.
11	WINK	Saturday	Fort Myers	4:00 P.M.
44	WTOG	Saturday	St. Petersburg	7:30 P.M.
10	WLCY	Sunday	Tampa	1:00 P.M.
GEORGIA				
3	WRBL	Saturday	Columbus	3:00 P.M.
41	WCWB	Saturday	Macon	1:00 P.M.
17	WTCG	Saturday	Atlanta	9:00 P.M.
11	WQXI	Saturday	Atlanta	10:30 P.M.
41	WCWB	Sunday	Macon	3:00 P.M.
6	WJBF	Saturday	Augusta	3:00 P.M.
HAWAII				
9	KGMB	Saturday	Honolulu	3:30 P.M.
3	KMAU	Saturday	Wailuku	3:30 P.M.
9	KPUA	Saturday	Hilo	3:30 P.M.
9	KGMB	Friday	Honolulu	11:00 P.M.
3	KMAU	Friday	Wailuku	11:00 P.M.
9	KPUA	Friday	Hilo	11:00 P.M.
ILLINOIS				
26	WCIU	Saturday	Chicago	5:00 P.M.
26	WCIU	Sunday	Chicago	11:00 A.M.
13	WREX	Sunday	Rockford	11:00 A.M.
8	WQAD	Saturday	Moline	5:30 P.M.
10	WGEM	Saturday	Quincy	11:25 P.M.
8	WQAD	Sunday	Moline	11:30 P.M.
26	WCIU	Thursday	Chicago	10:30 P.M.
INDIANA				
7	WTVW	Evansville	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
28	WSJV	South Bend	Saturday	2:00 P.M.
4	WTTV	Indianapolis	Saturday	12:45 P.M.
IOWA				
13	WHO	Des Moines	Saturday	12:00 P.M.
7	KWWL	Waterloo	Saturday	4:30 P.M.
3	KYVO	Ottumwa	Sunday	2:00 P.M.
13	WHO	Des Moines	Sunday	11:00 P.M.
4	KTVI	Sioux City	Saturday	10:30 P.M.
KANSAS				
59	KCIT	Kansas City	Saturday	3:30 P.M.
7	KOAM	Pittsburg	Saturday	1:00 P.M.
KENTUCKY				
32	WLKY	Louisville	Sunday	4:00 P.M.
13	WBKO	Bowling Green	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
13	WBKO	Bowling Green	Sunday	4:00 P.M.
LOUISIANA				
10	KTVE	El Dorado	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
3	KTBS	Shreveport	Saturday	9:00 P.M.
6	WVUE	New Orleans	Saturday	12:00 P.M.
10	KLFY	Monroe	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
26	WWOM	New Orleans	Saturday	9:30 P.M.
9	WAFB	Lafayette	Sunday	12:00 P.M.
MAINE				
13	WGAN	Portland	Saturday	1:00 P.M.
5	WABI	Bangor	Saturday	11:15 P.M.
MARYLAND				
45	WBFF	Baltimore	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
25	WHAG	Hagerstown	Sunday	12:00 P.M.
MASSACHUSETTS				
38	WSBK	Boston	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
56	WKBG	Boston	Saturday	11:00 A.M.
MICHIGAN				
10	WLIX	Lansing	Saturday	6:00 P.M.
62	WXON	Detroit	Saturday	5:00 P.M.
62	WXON	Detroit	Thursday	9:00 P.M.
10	WILX	Jackson	Saturday	5:30 P.M.
5	WNEM	Saginaw	Sunday	3:00 P.M.
41	WUHQ	Battle Creek	Saturday	1:30 P.M.
MINNESOTA				
11	WTCN	Minneapolis	Saturday	6:00 P.M.
12	KEYC	Mankato	Saturday	3:30 P.M.
3	KDAL	Duluth	Saturday	5:00 P.M.
MISSISSIPPI				
4	WCBI	Columbus	Saturday	11:00 P.M.
13	WLOX	Biloxi	Saturday	10:30 P.M.

12	WJTV	Jackson	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
6	WABG	Greenwood	Saturday	5:30 P.M.
7	WDAM	Hattiesburg	Sunday	1:00 P.M.
9	WTWV	Tupelo	Saturday	11:40 P.M.

MISSOURI

2	KQTV	St. Joseph	Saturday	10:30 P.M.
11	KPLR	St. Louis	Saturday	10:30 P.M.
11	KPLR	St. Louis	Sunday	11:00 A.M.
3	KYTV	Springfield	Saturday	11:30 P.M.

MONTANA

3	KYUS	Miles City	Friday	9:00 P.M.

NEBRASKA

13	KHOL	Kearney	Saturday	9:30 P.M.
7	KETV	Omaha	Monday	10:30 P.M.

NEVADA

5	KHBV	Henderson	Saturday	5:30 P.M.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

9	WMUR	Manchester	Sunday	1:00 P.M.

NEW JERSEY

41	WXTV	Paterson	Saturday	5:30 P.M.
47	WNJU	Newark	Sunday	6:30 P.M.

NEW MEXICO

8	KSWS	Roswell	Saturday	12:00 P.M.
10	KBIM	Roswell	Saturday	10:30 P.M.
7	KOAT	Albuquerque	Sunday	12:00 P.M.

NEW YORK

36	WENY	Elmira	Saturday	10:30 P.M.
20	WVTR	Utica	Saturday	12:45 P.M.
6	WRGB	Schenectady	Sunday	11:00 P.M.
2	WKTV	Utica	Sunday	2:00 P.M.
34	WBJA	Binghamton	Tuesday	5:30 P.M.
29	WUTV	Buffalo	Sunday	1:30 P.M.
2	WGR	Buffalo	Saturday	12:30 P.M.

NORTH CAROLINA

13	WBTW	Florence	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
28	WRDU	Durham	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
8	WGHP	High Point	Saturday	6:30 P.M.
36	WRET	Charlotte	Saturday	7:30 P.M.
5	WRAL	Raleigh	Saturday	5:00 P.M.

NORTH DAKOTA

12	KCND	Pembina	Saturday	5:30 P.M.
12	KCND	Pembina	Friday	5:00 P.M.
4	KXJB	Fargo	Friday	10:40 P.M.
11	KXMD	Williston	Friday	10:40 P.M.
12	KXMB	Bismarck	Friday	10:40 P.M.
13	KXMC	Minot	Friday	10:40 P.M.

OHIO

19	WXIX	Cincinnati	Sunday	10:00 A.M.
19	WXIX	Cincinnati	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
6	WTVN	Columbus	Saturday	2:00 P.M.
23	WAKR	Akron	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
61	WKBF	Cleveland	Saturday	6:00 P.M.
43	WUAB	Cleveland	Saturday	7:00 P.M.
17	WJAN	Canton	Tuesday	7:00 P.M.
17	WJAN	Canton	Saturday	7:00 P.M.
35	WIMA	Lima	Saturday	1:00 P.M.
22	WKEF	Dayton	Saturday	2:00 P.M.
24	WDHO	Toledo	Saturday	4:00 P.M.

OKLAHOMA

6	KOTV	Tulsa	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
8	KFDO	Sayre	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
4	WKY	Oklahoma City	Sunday	2:00 P.M.

OREGON

12	KPTV	Portland	Saturday	8:30 P.M.
6	KOIN	Portland	Friday	11:30 P.M.

PENNSYLVANIA

29	WTAF	Philadelphia	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
48	WKBS	Philadelphia	Saturday	5:00 P.M.
22	WDAU	Scranton	Saturday	6:00 P.M.
21	WHIP	Harrisburg	Sunday	1:00 P.M.
29	WTAF	Philadelphia	Wednesday	11:30 P.M.
11	WIIC	Pittsburgh	Saturday	5:30 P.M.
53	WPGH	Pittsburgh	Sunday	3:30 P.M.
36	WENY	Elmira	Saturday	10:30 P.M.
24	WJET	Erie	Saturday	10:00 P.M.

RHODE ISLAND

12	WPRI	Providence	Saturday	12:30 P.M.

SOUTH CAROLINA

4	WFBC	Greenville	Saturday	1:00 P.M.
3	WBTV	Charlotte	Wednesday	8:30 P.M.
3	WBTV	Charlotte	Saturday	5:00 P.M.
36	WRET	Charlotte	Saturday	7:30 P.M.
19	WNOK	Columbia	Saturday	2:00 P.M.
5	WCSC	Charleston	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
13	WBTW	Florence	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
25	WOLO	Columbia	Saturday	11:15 P.M.

SOUTH DAKOTA

11	KELO	Sioux Falls	Friday	11:00 P.M.
6	KPLO	Reliance	Friday	11:00 P.M.
3	KDLO	Garden City	Friday	11:00 P.M.

TENNESSEE

8	WSIX	Nashville	Saturday	2:30 P.M.
12	WDEF	Chattanooga	Saturday	5:00 P.M.
19	WKPT	Kingsport	Saturday	2:30 P.M.
26	WTVK	Knoxville	Saturday	6:30 P.M.
13	WHBQ	Memphis	Saturday	2:30 P.M.
7	WBBJ	Jackson	Saturday	10:20 P.M.

TEXAS

4	KROD	El Paso	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
6	KAUZ	Wichita Falls	Friday	10:30 P.M.
7	KOSA	Midland	Saturday	1:00 P.M.
13	KLBK	Lubbock	Saturday	2:00 P.M.
3	KACB	San Angelo	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
10	KFDA	Amarillo	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
3	KACB	San Angelo	Sunday	10:30 P.M.
34	KMXN	Lubbock	Friday	8:30 P.M.
42	KHFI	Austin	Saturday	12:00 P.M.
6	KCEN	Temple	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
9	KRBC	Abilene	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
11	KTVT	Fort Worth	Saturday	10:30 P.M.
8	KGNS	Laredo	Saturday	10:15 P.M.
3	KIII	Corpus Christi	Sunday	4:00 P.M.
41	KWEX	San Antonio	Friday	9:00 P.M.
39	KHTV	Houston	Saturday	10:00 P.M.

VERMONT

22	WWLP	Rutland	Saturday	1:00 P.M.

VIRGINIA

6	WTVR	Richmond	Saturday	5:00 P.M.
10	WAVY	Norfolk	Saturday	6:30 P.M.
10	WSLS	Roanoke	Saturday	12:30 P.M.

WASHINGTON

6	KHQ	Spokane	Sunday	4:30 P.M.
13	KIVW	Tacoma	Wednesday	7:00 P.M.

WEST VIRGINIA

5	WDTV	Weston	Saturday	4:00 P.M.
8	WCHS	Charleston	Saturday	5:00 P.M.
15	WTAP	Parkersburg	Saturday	5:30 P.M.
4	WOAY	Oak Hill	Saturday	10:30 P.M.
6	WHIS	Bluefield	Sunday	3:00 P.M.

WISCONSIN

18	WVTV	Milwaukee	Saturday	5:00 P.M.
11	WLUK	Green Bay	Saturday	12:30 P.M.
18	WVTV	Milwaukee	Sunday	11:00 A.M.
11	WLVK	Green Bay	Sunday	1:15 P.M.
34	KFIZ	Fond du Lac	Sunday	6:30 P.M.

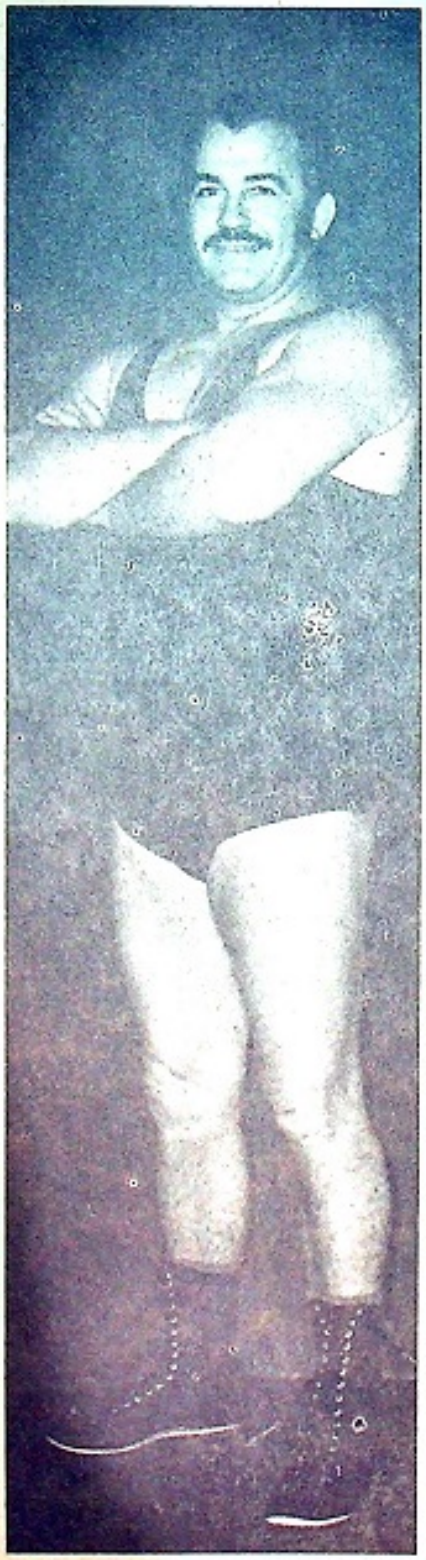
ALBERTA

3	CFRN	Edmonton	Saturday	1:30 P.M.

(Continued on page 56)

RONNIE ETCHISON

The Old Pro from St. Joe



The popular Ronnie signs autographs before his bout in the studio of WKY in Oklahoma City. Then he goes into action against Aldo Bogni, another veteran star, in a bout that is seen throughout the south on the Championship Wrestling network.

After the bout, victorious Ronnie is interviewed by announcer Danny Williams. Etchison tells Danny what he plans to do in future weeks.

by ETHEL McMANUS

There are many top veteran wrestlers, but none can claim a record in the Central States area that is better than that of Ronnie Etchison. For 25 years the St. Joseph, Missouri, great has been wrestling professionally. Although he has worked all over the world, Ronnie is best known and spent most of his time around the mats in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas.

Etchison broke into wrestling in 1946 under the banner of Gust Karras. It was a good year for Karras as he developed three men who became superstars that year. In addition to Etchison, Sonny Myers (present sheriff of the county in Missouri where St. Joseph is located), and Bob Orton (still wrestling professionally).

One great wrestler who faced Etchison in one of his first matches was Le Roy McGuirk. McGuirk, who was World's Junior Heavyweight Champion at the time and who now promotes wrestling in Oklahoma, recalls Etchison this way.

"When I saw this fellow across the ring from me he didn't look old enough to be a wrestler. He still had his baby fat and I figured it would be an. easy match. I was wrong. He may not have looked it, but he knew wrestling backwards and forwards and he could move around the ring with such speed that it turned out to be one of my hardest matches."

If LeRoy had known more about Ronnie's background he wouldn't have been surprised. Ronnie was an amateur champion while in college and had trained for a year at St. Joseph under Karras before turning professional.

(Continued on page 61)

Before defending his title in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Ronnie hands the United States belt to promoter Larry Lewis. Lewis says that Ronnie is the top drawing card of all time in Iowa wrestling.

Ronnie jumps high over Gypsy Joe in a match held last year in Florida. Ronnie has proved to be a top star wherever he goes, but he always returns to St. Joe after touring other parts of the country.

THE VETERAN MEETS THE ROOKIE

The Fabulous Moolah defends her World's match in Griffin, Georgia, against sensational young rookie star Tippy Wells.

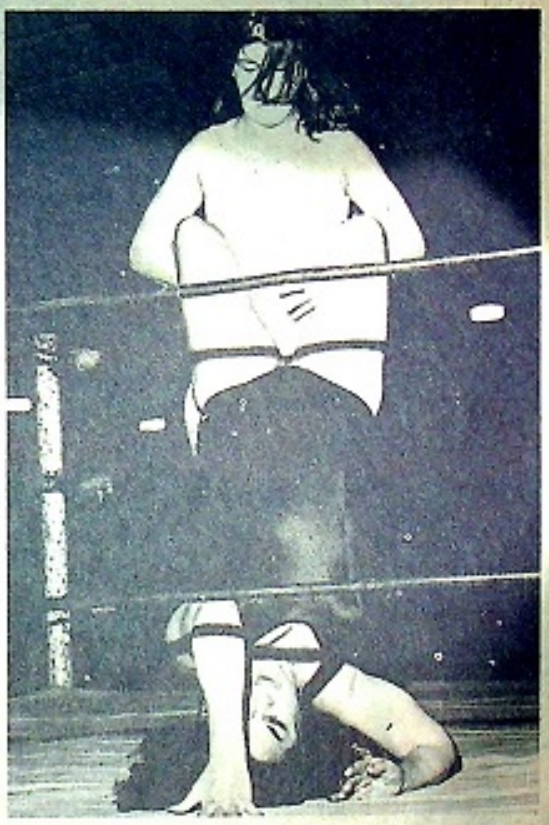
Tippy Wells and Moolah receive instructions from the referee prior to the bout for the World's Championship in Griffon, Georgia.

A male fan in the audience had the nerve to climb into the ring, but Moolah threw him out and made sure he was in not condition to return.

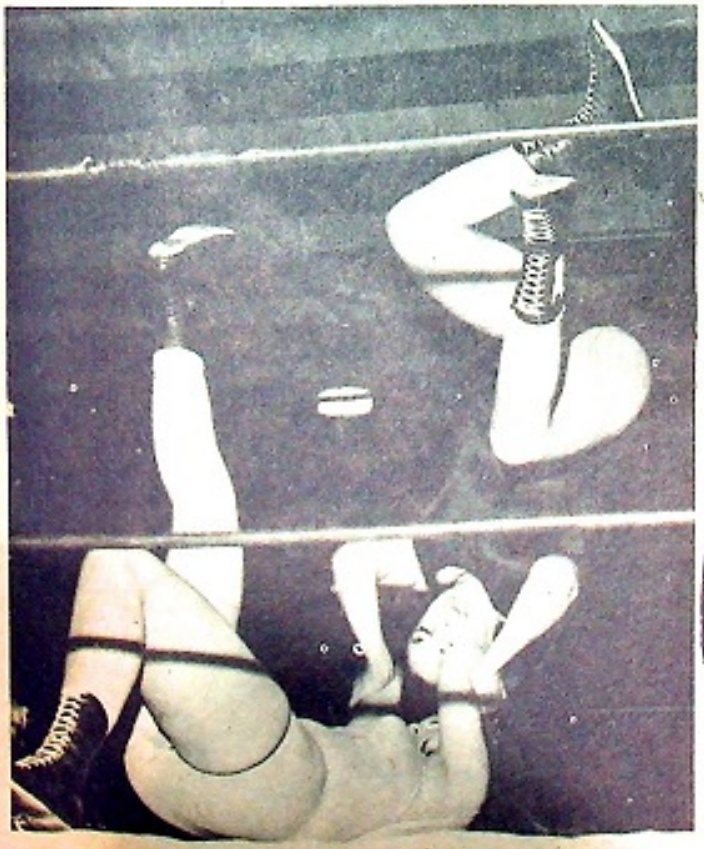
Moolah got a choke hold on Miss Wells early in the bout and the referee had to threaten her before she broke it.

Women's Championship in an exciting title

It didn't take Tippy long to get into action hereself. She had Moolah screaming in pain as she applied pressure to her legs.



Above: Tippy tried to get a Boston Crab submission hold on Moolah, but the craft veteran managed to make her way to the ropes. Below: Moolah won the first fall, but Tippy came back to win the second and even the match.



Tippy threw Moolah over her head and banged her to the mat in the action filled bout.

In the third fall the action got hot and heavy. Moolah even resorted to pulling Miss Wells hair and doing anything in her power to keep her hold on the world title.

When the final fall ended it was a victorious champion who had her hand raised in victory and carried her World's Women's Championship belt proudly from the ring back to the dressing room.

Miss Tippy Wells left the ring, sadder but wiser. The rookied had received a wrestling lesson from the best, and next time they meet the result may be different.

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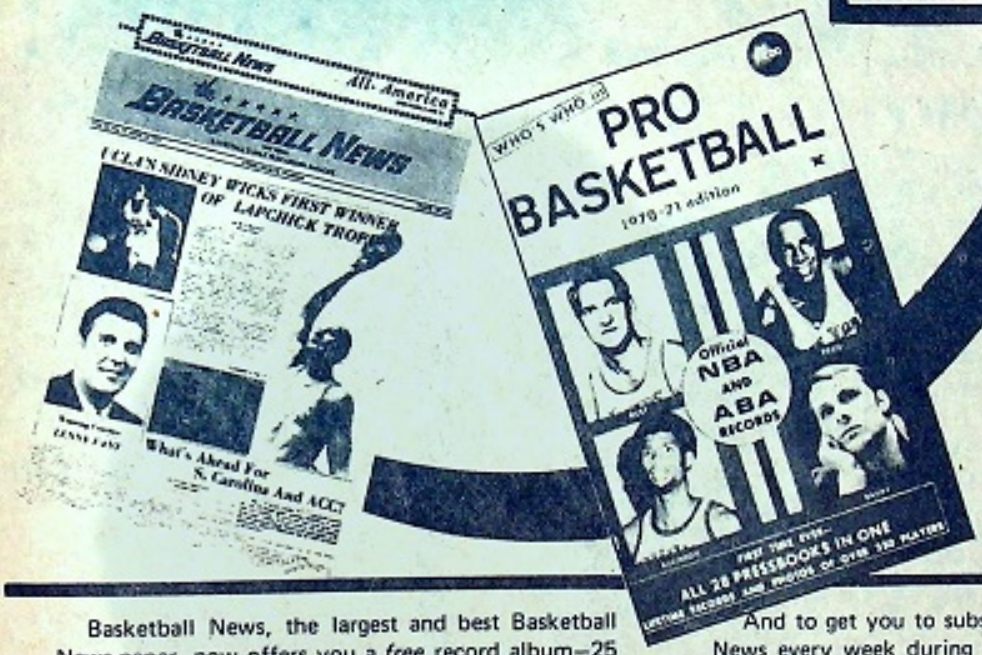

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Sue Brittain poses before posters at the arena prior to her match.

SUE BRITTAIN

WIFE AND MOTHER BECOMES PRO WRESTLER

by DON WILSON

Sue receives instructions from the referee prior to the match. She then goes into action at a furious pace.

Sue Brittain, tired of simply watching mat action for several years, decided to take the big step from fan to contestant, from housewife to female grappler.

Sue's interest in pro wrestling increased as her husband Ron, became more active in this wonderful sport. Ron, a former officer of the Wrestling Fans International Association, and now a member of the elite advisory council of the world wide organization, progressed from time-keeper, free lance photographer for wrestling magazines, to managing his wife's active wrestling career.

Watching Sue in the kitchen of their home in Pudsey, Yorkshire, England, cooking for Ron and their two children, Tracey, nine, and Karen, eleven, certainly doesn't give any indication of the wild action which comes forth when she enters the wrestling ring. The children have never seen their mother wrestle, as she feels they would be very upset if they saw her get hurt.

But Sue went on to explain, "If they would want to wrestle when they grow up, I certainly wouldn't stand in their way. As a matter of fact, I would recommend it to anyone fit enough to participate in this fantastic sport."

Sue, who prefers to keep her age a secret, has received her share of the bumps and bruises,

Sue has her opponent, Soole Pontefract, tied up in knots during much of the match.

Miss Pontefract gets in a few licks of her own before the match is over, but Sue Brittain eventually emerges victorious.

but thus far in her short career has avoided any serious injury. She explains, "I keep fit by training regularly, either at home in our attic gymnasium, or at the Armley judo gym, but even when you're at the peak of fitness, some of the falls hurt a lot.

"Those who claim wrestling is fixed should get in the ring, and after a few rounds, they'd soon change their opinion. One thing I do have to watch for is some of the ring-side fans, as often the women get very excited and violent, so I'm constantly on the watch for flying umbrellas and various other sundry items, even jabs from hat pins."

Her ring outfit is completely red, except for the black boots and socks and her dark blue jacket, with red letters spelling out Sue Brittain, over and under the British flag, which she hands to Ron at Ring-side, and then the garter, which as she removes it, causes the fans much concern.

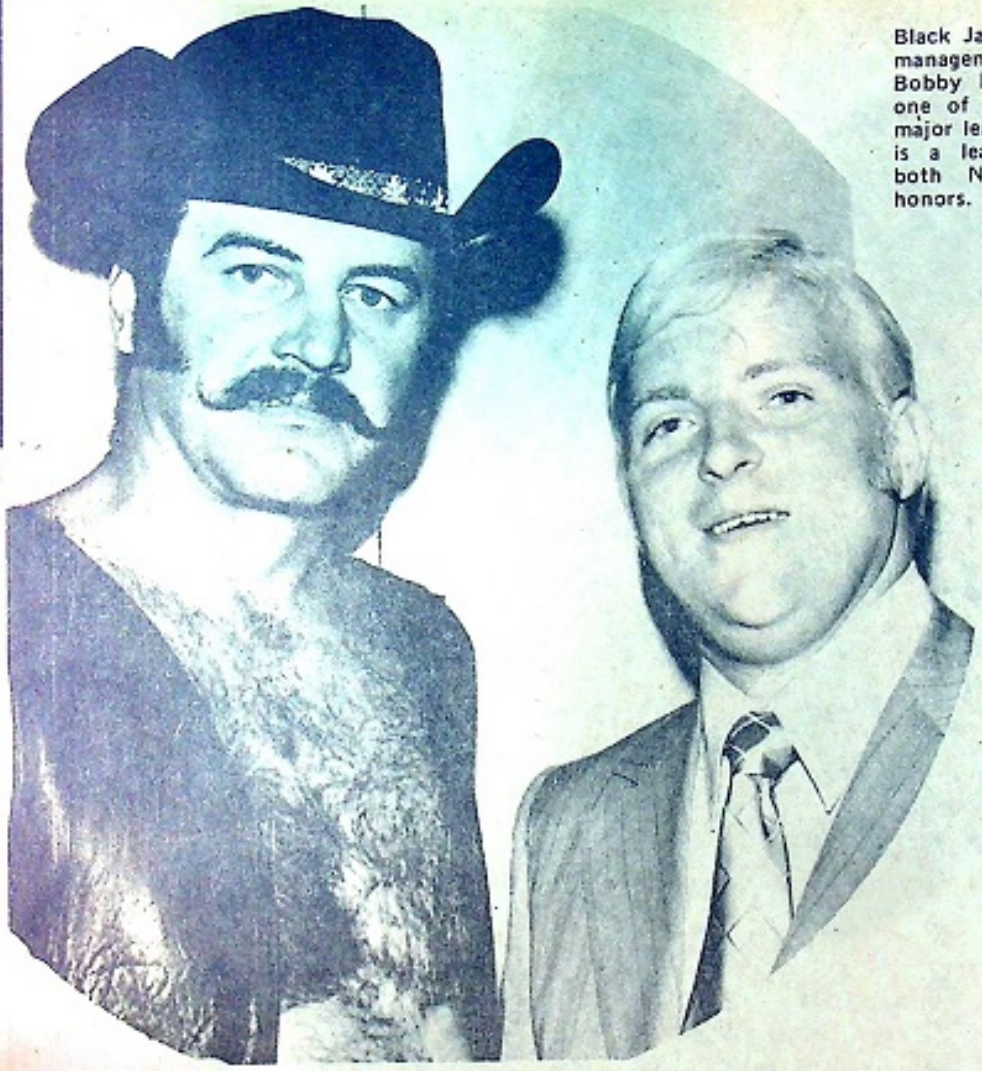
One of the big problems facing Sue and the other girl grapplers in England is the fact that women can't wrestle in many areas (like the state of New York) because of local regulations, so the girls often travel hundreds of miles to appear in halls where their immense novelty and popularity draw capacity houses of both men and women. Another situation partly caused by the above, is that there are only about a dozen lady wrestlers in Britain. Consequently, Sue frequently finds herself matched against heavier opponents. However, her training and conditioning usually prevail, leaving Sue the winner.

"The rules for women are the same as the men's," she said, "but we usually cheat more, and once the bout starts, it becomes a very serious business."

Sue keeps her hair short, claiming, "If you let your hair get long, it will get pulled for sure, and first thing, you'll get chucked around the ring with someone still hanging on to your locks."

Referees have many of the same problems in Britain with the girls, as they do in the states. As one popular ref put it, "The girls' bouts really keep me on my toes, much more so than the average men's match. The action is very fast and they usually manage to involve me in the action several times during their hectic matches."

I wish to take this opportunity to wish Sue Brittain, wrestler and housewife, along with her husband Ron, the very best, and sure hope they get the tour of France they're hoping for. They're two really fine people and I'm proud to call them my friends.



Black Jack Lanza, under the management of Pretty Boy Bobby Heenan, has become one of the top grapplers in major league wrestling. Lanza is a leading challenger for both N.W.A. and A.W.A. honors.

WRESTLING'S ODD COUPLE

by JAMES C. MELBY

For many years, Black Jack Lanza, accompanied by his flashy dressed manager, Bobby Heenan, has been a familiar sight to the midwest wrestling fans. Recently there has been a big change, Gorgeous Bobby Heenan has donned wrestling trunks and taken up a grappling career himself. Foes now not only have to contend with the New Mexico bad man, but also his blond bomber wrestler manager.

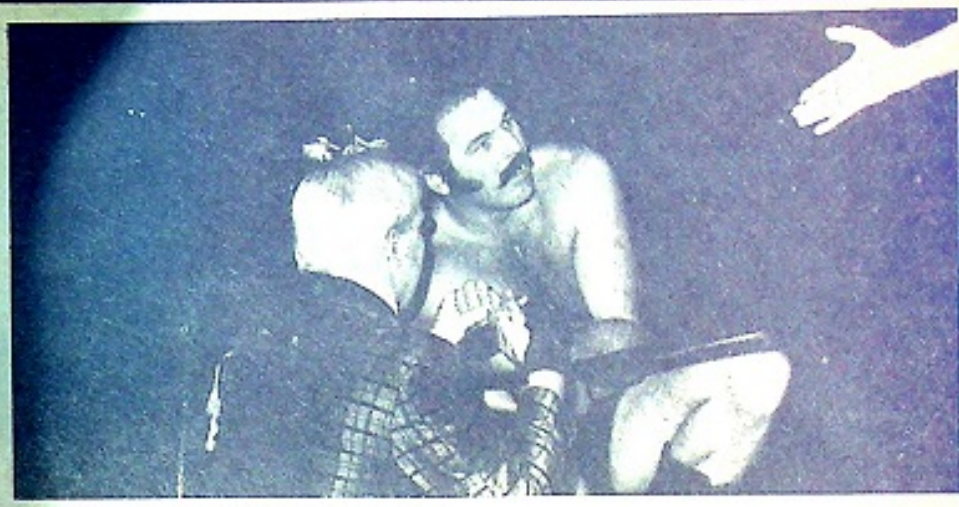
Up until now, it has not been unusual for Bobby Heenan to interfere in his protege's matches. Often when the Black Jack has been at a disadvantage, Bobby Heenan would create a distraction, with either the referee or Lanza's opponent. With the unsuspecting foe's back turned, Lanza would unleash one of the most deadly attacks in all of wrestling. In more than one instance, Heenan has taken it upon himself to actually help his friend and partner physically.

It has also not been unusual for Heenan, on the TV interviews, to threaten to put on his wrestling trunks and teach a few of Lanza's opponents some wrestling lessons. But it came as quite a surprise when he actually did what he said he was going to do.

Heenan's first match in the Midwest was a short but fast and furious battle with Cleveland's Kenny Jay. Both men almost qualify for Junior-Heavyweight level and are extremely fast and agile. The popular Jay took command of the bout from the start. He slammed the Gorgeous One from pillar to post. At one point he sent Heenan flying six feet with a bone-shattering body block off the ropes. Upon trying the spectacular maneuver a second time, Heenan ducked and Jay flew out of the ring into the lap of Black Jack Lanza who was sitting at ringside. With Heenan distracting the referee, Lanza gave Jay a pile driver on the cement floor, and threw him back in the ring. It was a simple matter for Heenan to cover the unconscious Jay and gain the victory. Heenan and Lanza had to leave the ring with the protection of six of St. Paul's finest.

For many months, Lanza and Cruzher have had a torrid feud in such midwest cities as Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Chicago and Rockford. In the course of many of the wild and wooly battles, Heenan has seen quite a bit of action himself. The Crusher came out on TV interview and said "Since I have to fight these two bums anyway, I might as well get paid for it." Lanza and Heenan jumped at the chance to face Crusher in one of the most deadly types of

Bobby Heenan gives advice to Lanza throughout their match. Bobby always is in a chair at ringside for Lanza to consult in emergencies, and more often than not Heenan leaves the chair for even closer views of the action.



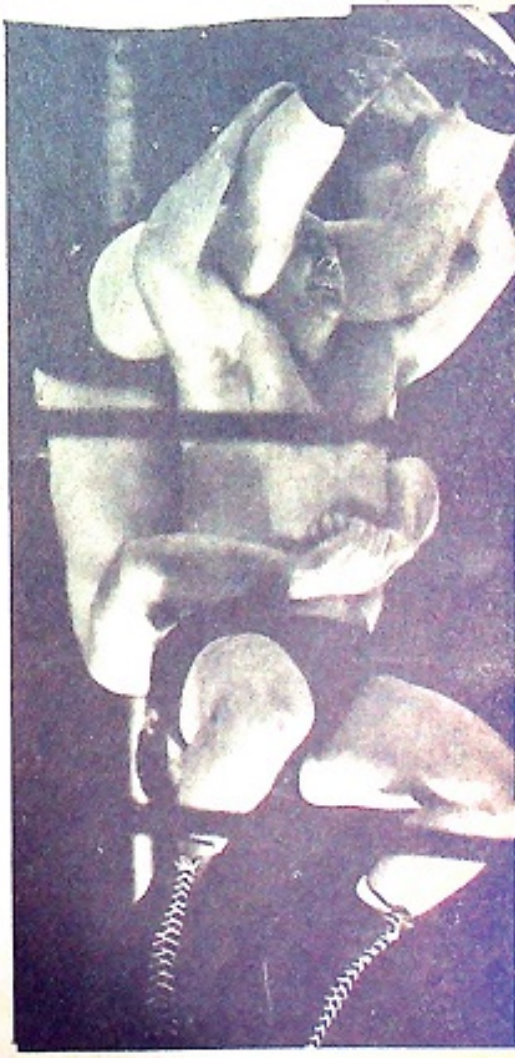
wrestling matches, the Handicap Match. In a Handicap Match, a wrestler agrees to take on a tag team by himself. A wrestler who places himself in this position is at quite a disadvantage, as he has no opportunity to tag off to a partner and gain a few minutes of time to catch his breath.

The night of the match came and fans were treated to one of the wildest and goriest bouts ever held. Crusher and Lanza locked horns to start the titantic battle, Lanza savagely gouged at Crushers eyes, but the Milwaukee strong man retaliated with a series of vicious kicks. Things looked bad for the fans' favorite when the lanky villain in black trapped him in the deadly Cobra Clutch hold. The Cobra Clutch is a very deadly sleeper hold in which an opponent loses consciousness in a matter of seconds. Crusher escaped from the dangerous predicament by slamming his beefly elbow into Lanza's midsection. As if driven by an invisible force, Crusher tore into Lanza with a two-fisted attack that would make Joe Frazier envious. Much to the delight of the fans, Crusher pinned the former rancher after knocking him out with his version of an uppercut, known as the Bolo Punch.

Heenan started the second fall out against the now enraged Crusher. It was quite evident that Heenan believed in the old proverb, "Discretion is the better part of valor." He spent most of his time jumping out of the ring or clinging to the ropes. When Crusher did catch up to him, it was obvious that the Indianapolis dandy was no match for him. Heenan attempted an armlock, but Crusher threw him to the

Black Jack wears a leather pad on his hand which he claims is for protection. His opponents claim he uses it to conceal a foreign object.

Lanza groans in pain from Bull Bullinski's dreaded bearhug. Heenan can't help him now.



dreaded finishing holds. Verne Gagne is about to become the victim of this one.

Marty O'Neill of the nationally syndicated All Star Wrestling television program interviews Heenan and Lanza after a victory. Bobby does most of the talking.

Black Jack drives the head of Paul Diamond into the ropes with a vicious kick even though Diamond is already helpless and ready for the pin.

mat, hardly flexing a muscle. A look of fear came across the blond bomber's face when he realized the Crusher was tired of playing the cat-and-mouse game. Heenan's face was a mask of blood after Crusher rammed his head into one of the metal turnbuckles. Just as Crusher was prepared to pin Heenan, Lanza mounted the top rope in an attempted knee drop. Crusher saw Lanza out of the corner of his eye and caught him in mid-air and slammed him to the mat with a tremendous crash. Lanza and Crusher continued their wild brawl to the floor while the referee counted out Crusher, who was suppose to be in the ring wrestling with Heenan. Crusher was counted out and once again the deadly duo of Lanza and Heenan was victorious.

Heenan's next match was a bout against veteran star Angelo Poffo in Hammond, Indiana. For many years Poffo has dazzled fans with his amazing array of colorful ring garb. But, on this particular evening, his was outdone by his opponent, Goegeous Bobby Heenan. Heenan entered the ring in a Hot Pink leotard outfit with his name emblazoned in Fire-Engine Red on the back of his matching Hot Pink jacket. Heenan shone brightly not only in his wrestling attire, but also in his wrestling ability that night. Using pure scientific wrestling ability, he beat high ranking Poffo in what was considered an upset. Heenan proved to all his critics that he was a capable wrestler and didn't need outside interference to help him win.

After many weeks of negotiation, a rematch was signed between Crusher and the team of Lanza and Heenan. The rematch had the stipulation that either Lanza or Heenan would be handcuffed to a turnbuckle while the other would wrestle with Crusher. Once again Crusher bloodied Heenan and was able to secure the first fall. But, when Lanza was unhandcuffed, Lanza and Heenan pulled Crusher into the corner and handcuffed him to the ringpost. With Crusher helpless in the corner, the deadly duo gave him a thorough working-over. If the wrestlers on the under card hadn't entered the ring to save him, Crusher probably wouldn't be wrestling today.

Lanza and Heenan have also had quite a few encounters with Bull Bullinski, the former Chicago truck driver. Bullinski is a barrel-chested strong man who has never been known to take a step back from any foe in the ring.

Bullinski challenged Heenan to a singles match and the flashy Indianapolis resident accepted. Heenan in a pre-match television interview stated that Bullinski gets by on pure brute strength alone. Heenan promised his fans that he would show the truck driver real wrestling finesse.

In the match, Heenan once again resorted to his hit-and-run tactics. After getting a few damaging blows, he would jump over the top rope, escaping the Bull before he could retaliate. Heenan finally did stand man-to-man and slug it out, but came out second best. Sensing defeat, Heenan departed from the ring, but was surprised when Bullinski chased him to the dressing room. The referee counted both men out and the match ended in a no contest.

What remains ahead for the deadly duo, only time will tell. Black Jack Lanza has long been considered one of the top contenders for the World's Heavyweight Championship. With Bobby Heenan now by his side it appears that current American Wrestling Alliance World Tag Team Champions, Red Bastien and Hercules Cortez, will have another top team to contend with. Junior Heavy Champion, Danny Hodge, will also have to be on his toes if he faces Heenan, as the boy wonder of wrestling has expressed a desire to capture all the titles in professional wrestling.

The Garden and BOB ROOP

by NORMAN H. KIETZER

It was all a new experience for me. Just a week before I had come to New York to take over my new job as editor of Wrestling Monthly. Now I was covering my first wrestling card at Madison Square Garden.

Like every Garden card, Promoter Vince McMahon and Matchmaker Willie Gilzenberg had outdone themselves. It was stacked from top to bottom with superstars like Pedro Morales, Tarzan Tyler, Crazy Luke Graham, Gorilla Monsoon, Jay Strongbow, and Eddie Graham.

They were all impressive, but the man who made the biggest impression on me that evening was Bob Roop.

In the Garden dressing rooms I renewed old acquaintances and made new ones. In the corner of the room I noticed a quiet boy wearing the jacket of the United States Olympic Team.

He was standing alone so I moved over and introduced myself. I asked him to pose for some photos and he obliged. I asked him about the jacket and he told me he was our country's heavyweight representative in the 1968 Olympics.

Then it was time for him to go out and wrestle. He was rough, and defeated Manuel Soto, one of New York's young favorites,

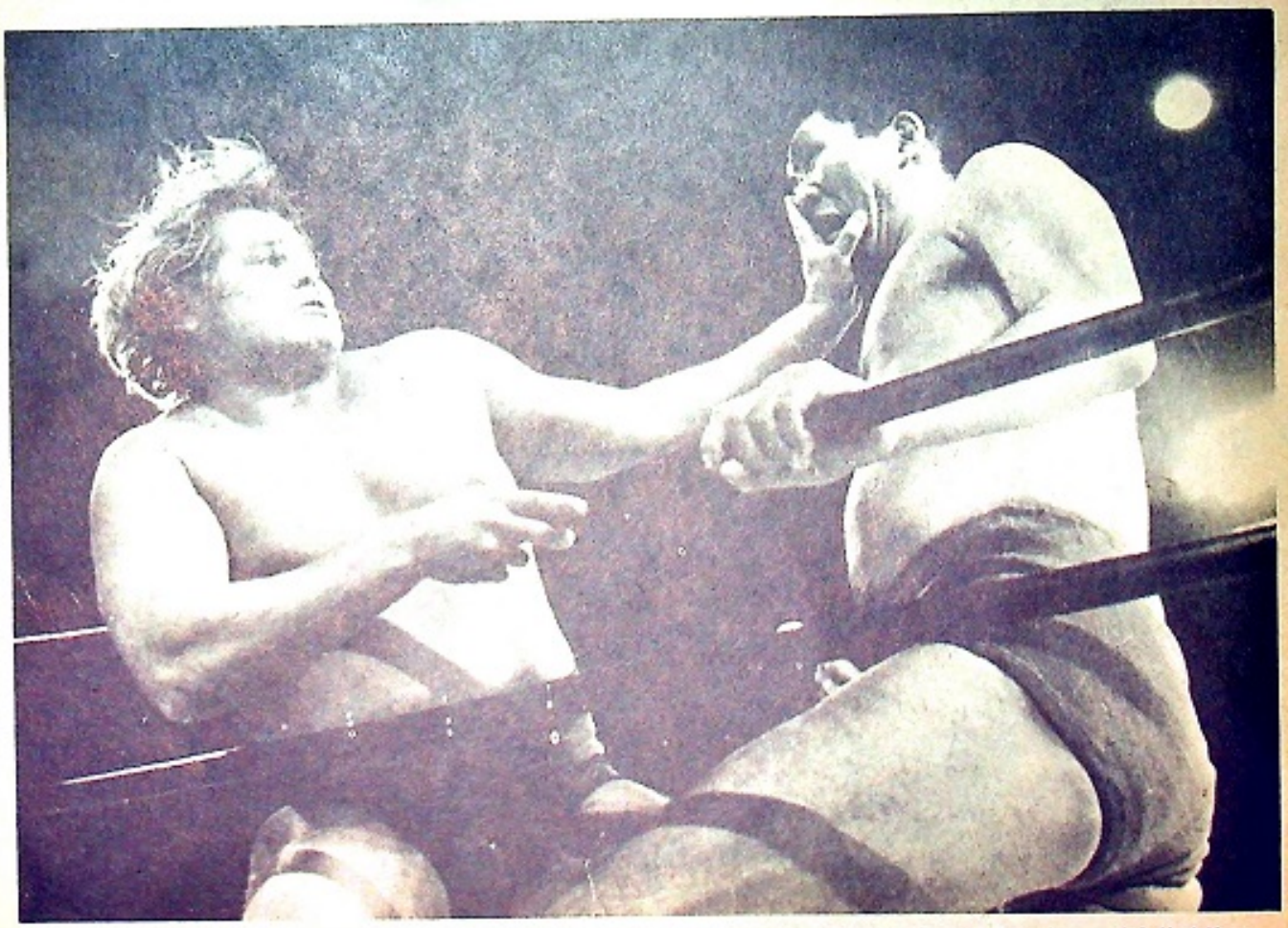
Bob Roop and Buddy Fuller prior to defending their southern tag team title in Tampa a few months ago.

Bob Roop stunned the Madison Square Garden audience as he easily defeated popular favorite Manuel Soto. He gave a dazzling display of scientific wrestling.

much to the dismay of the fans. But he was impressive to me for he showed the natural savvy that only an amateur champion turned professional has. Yes, he was rough and unpopular against a local favorite, but he did not use a single illegal hold. In fact, he used so many legal scientific holds that my mind could only compare him to other wrestlers like Verne Gagne, Danny Hodge, Bill Watts, Jack Brisco, and Lars Anderson, who had come out of the amateur ranks into professional stardom.

Compare yes, but yet there was something different in the style of Bob Roop that caught my eye. Something I just couldn't put my finger on.

After the match I knew I just had to find out more about him. I left my seat in the press row at ringside and made my way back to the dressing room area. When he came out dressed to watch the rest of the matches, I wasted no



Late last year Roop traveled to Tokyo, Japan, where he met Japanese champion Shohei "Giant" Baba in a match that they are still talking about throughout the Orient.

Bob posed in the Garden dressing room wearing his Olympic Jacket.

Roop crushes the head of Flash Monroe in his vise-like headlock during action between the two in Miami Beach, Florida.

On his trip to Japan, Roop also wrestled another top grappler from that country, Mr. O'Kuma, in Sendai.

time in asking for a longer interview.

First I asked him where he went to college and he told me he had wrestled at both Michigan State and Southern Illinois.

He didn't seem very talkative about his collegiate background, so I switched back to the Olympics. As some of my readers know, there are actually two completely separate wrestling events in the Olympics. One is the freestyle wrestling which is roughly similar to our NCAA collegiate style. The other is Greco-Roman which is nothing like any amateur wrestling on the high school or college level in this country. I asked him which event he was in and he said proudly, "Greco-Roman. I don't like working down on the mat."

Now I knew what that different quirk in his scientific style had been. It had been bothering me since his match. I had compared him to men like Gagne, Hodge, and Brisco who had excelled in the collegiate

(Continued on page 57)

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ANN CASEY
(Continued from page 25)

popular, Ann is considered the winningest girl wrestler.

Ann comes from an Irish-French-Seminole Indian heritage. The blood mixture has made her a beauty and given her a body that she has developed so that it is not just the envy of any girl who sees her on the street, but also in the condition that a major league athlete like herself must keep to stay at the top of her profession.

She knows all the wrestling holds in the book. She is adept at scientific maneuvers like the body slam, the airplane spin, and the headlock, and if the going gets rough she is not averse to using the hair pull or the fist.

You might think she is overweight when you see her listed at 155 pounds, but when you see how those muscles are situated on her five-foot nine-inch 38-24-36 frame, you realize that she is classically proportioned.

Outside the ring she is the ultimate example of the old Southern Belle, showing all the hospitality that the area is known for. But, in the ring, it's a different story. When she gets treated in an unfair or unsportsmanlike way by her opponent, the Irish blood takes over and she has a temper that the girl she is wrestling quickly realizes was a mistake to arouse.

Certainly she has a lot more fans among the men than the women. It's natural for men to appreciate a very beautiful lady, but women tend to feel jealous when in the presence of another woman as beautiful as Ann.

The way she has been burning up the competition, it seems only a matter of time before Miss Ann Casey becomes the next World's Women's Champion, but right now she could probably claim to be one-half of the World's Tag-Out Team Champions. The only trouble is that the male wrestlers are fighting so hard among themselves over who will be her partner that we don't know who she would share that title with.

Whether in tag-out matches or in singles matches, Ann Casey the woman and Ann Casey the wrestler are both worth seeing. When she steps barefoot into the ring you will see one of the greatest combinations of beauty and talent in any sport anywhere in the world.

Ann sits astride Randy Curtis and gives Treach Phillips a look of disdain, prior to a mixed match in Jackson, Mississippi. After the match starts she delivers a barefoot kick to Mr. Phillip's head as he crouches in the corner.

(L.) Treach goes after Ann and tries to pull out her hair as Randy Curtis comes to his partners aid. (R.) Later in the match Ann has Miss LaVerne tangled in the ropes and ignors the referee's command to free her.

Billy had Spoiler #2 in trouble early in the match and won the first fall with his superior speed and scientific ability.

When the match was over, it was Billy "Red" Lyons and Tom Jones who left the ring carrying the championship belts.

GUIDE

(Continued from page 39)

6	CHAT	Medicine Hat	Monday	10:40 P.M.
2	CFAC	Calgary	Monday	1:10 P.M.
7	CJLH	Lethbridge	Monday	1:10 P.M.
4	CFCN	Calgary	Monday	11:40 P.M.
13	CFCN	Lethbridge	Monday	11:40 P.M.
2	CKSA	Lloydminster	Wednesday	11:40 P.M.
BRITISH COLUMBIA				
6	CHEK	Victoria	Saturday	3:00 P.M.
8	CHAN	Vancouver	Saturday	6:00 P.M.
8	CHAN	Vancouver	Sunday	11:20 P.M.
MANITOBA				
7	CJAY	Winnipeg	Saturday	9:00 P.M.
ONTARIO				
9	CKLW	Windsor	Saturday	4:30 P.M.
11	CHCH	Hamilton	Saturday	1:00 P.M.
11	CHCH	Hamilton	Saturday	9:30 P.M.
13	CKCO	Kitchner	Saturday	3:30 P.M.
8	CJOH	Ottawa	Saturday	12:00 P.M.
13	CJOH	Ottawa	Saturday	12:00 P.M.
3	CKVR	Barrie	Saturday	1:00 P.M.
9	CBLT	Toronto	Saturday	3:30 P.M.
13	CKCO	Kitchener	Tuesday	11:45 P.M.
SASKATCHEWAN				
5	CKBI	Prince Albert	Saturday	12:00 P.M.
8	CFQC	Saskatoon	Saturday	12:00 P.M.
5	CJFB	Swift Current	Tuesday	6:30 P.M.
QUEBEC				
12	CANAL	Montreal	Saturday	3:00 P.M.

HOW BILLY "RED" LYONS FOUND A PARTNER

(Continued from page 24)

Jones feels that his lack of formal education has been partially offset by the knowledge he has picked up in his extensive travels in the King of Sports. Because he is an exciting wrestler, he has been invited to exotic places like Japan, Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, and all over the United States. To a man like Tom Jones who thought he would only be able to dream about places like that, the invitations were eagerly accepted. And Tom, because of his true desire to better himself, learned not just the finer points of wrestling in each of these areas, but also studied the customs and the people wherever he visited.

Terrific Tom, as his friends call him, is used to fighting for what he wants. And professional wrestling gives him the opportunity to do what he knows best and to put that talent to work to make a good living. He enjoys the competition he finds in professional wrestling, and because he was always poor, he enjoys it even more because it is a lucrative profession for a winner. He likes to meet people and make friends and has made thousands of them all over the United States.

And so it was that Billy "Red" Lyons made a decision and approached Tom Jones. "Join me for some tag matches." he said, and Tom happily accepted. After a few initial triumphs against mediocre opposition, Lyons told Tom that they would have a shot at the United States Tag Team Championship on May 31st in Shreveport.

Jones and Lyons trained every day for the match. They worked on their timing until they could anticipate each other's moves. When the night of the match came they were ready to go.

The Spoilers, meanwhile, figured they were in for an easy night. After all, the top tag teams in the area were Kentuckians Grizzly Smith & Luke Brown, Germans Karl von Brauner & Waldo von Erich, and Japanese Chati Yokuchi & Yasu Fuji. Lyons and Jones were not even ranked, so why should they worry about them?

As it turned out it was a hard-fought match and Lyons and Jones had the edge that brought them victory and found the United States Tag Team Championship belts around their waists. Maybe The Spoilers didn't take the match seriously enough. That is what the masked men claim, anyway. But the fact remains that every championship wrestling match is a serious challenge to the titleholders and on May 31st Lyons and Jones were ready. The result was a title change.

In the weeks that have followed the veteran Canadian and the young black star have continued on their winning ways. Now they are facing the night-after-night grind of getting up for a championship match against top competition. There are no easy matches for champions. The Spoilers learned that the hard way and Lyons and Jones, who taught the masked men a lesson, aren't going to forget that lesson themselves so it looks like they may have a long reign as titlists.

THE GARDEN AND BOB ROOP
(Continued from page 53)

style. Roop was at his best in Greco-Roman.

I asked him his opinion of the long standing feud between the NCAA and the AAU in this country. Briefly, the NCAA sets the rules for the sport of wrestling in the colleges and high schools in the United States. These rules are unique and followed by no other amateur groups in the world.

All amateur wrestling in other countries is conducted under the international Olympic Freestyle and Olympic Greco-Roman rules. The AAU in this country also uses the Olympic rules.

Bob's answer was simple, "We'll never go anywhere in international amateur wrestling competition unless we train our boys from grade school up in the rules of international competition. If we want to win in wrestling in Olympics, the NCAA will either have to get every other country in the world to change to NCAA rules, or else the NCAA will have to adopt the rules the rest of the world lives by. And I don't see how any reasonable NCAA official can expect the rest of the world to change for us.

"I'm now living in Florida, and whatever time I can spare I assist Don Curtis in AAU tournaments there. (Ed. Note: Curtis, one of the great professional wrestling stars of all time, is now the state AAU chairman in Florida.)

"This year the 1971 National AAU Tournament was held in Tampa, Florida. Eddie Graham personally sponsored the tournament and provided all the financial backing for it. It was the finest AAU tournament ever held," he concluded.

Bob Roop ought to know because I checked the record books and found that he was a five-time AAU All-American, a nine time place winner, and in 1969 he won the National AAU 220-pound championship.

"That was the only time in my life I ever cut weight," he told me concerning the 220-pound title. "It was so hard on me cutting weight that I'll never do it again. I started out as a heavyweight and I'm going to stay there."

I turned him back to the professional side of wrestling and asked him who he thought was the best pro matman today. Without hesitation he answered, "Dory Funk Junior!" Then he quickly added, "But Jack Brisco is hot on his heels. And Nick Bockwinkel is also a fantastic talent."

I asked him his opinion of Pedro Morales who was then in the Madison Square Garden ring. "He looks very good. This is the first time I have seen him wrestle."

Then we drifted on to other subjects during the course of which he told me with pride about his wife, Paula, and their three-year-old- son.

He also told me how Eddie Graham had helped him train when he turned professional, and how Eddie had given him the advice that made him ready for the things that happen in a professional wrestling ring.

As the Garden show was ending he expressed his philosophy to me.

"I live, eat, and breathe wrestling. I thrive on competition. I always want to win. Noboby writes the losers' names in the record book.

"Professional wrestlers are the greatest athletes in the world. If you lock ten wrestlers into a room with ten other professional athletes, and I don't care if they are boxers, football players, hockey players or anything else, I guarantee you that it will be the wrestlers who will walk out of that room when the fight is over."

As I left the Garden that night I thought of the many stars I had seen. Morales, the Grahams, Tyler, Monsoon, and all the rest loomed in my mind.

But most of all I thought of an intelligent, articulate, superb young man I had talked with and how he will soon become another of this great sport's superstars.

I thought of Bob Roop because he is a WRESTLER.

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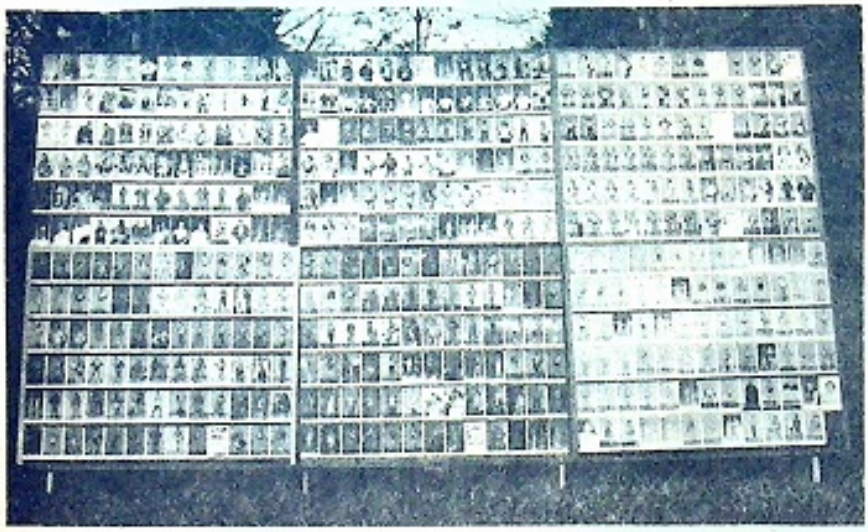
by JAMES C. MELBY



This board contains just a few of the many full color photographs that Wrestling Monthly associate editor Lil Al Vavasseur has for sale.

The purpose of this monthly column is to allow people who have started fan clubs to advertise their clubs. It is also for fans desiring wrestling correspondents to get in touch with interested parties.

I might add that it is common courtesy to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope when a return answer is required. Considering that quite a few clubs run at a loss now, the extra postage is a burden they can do without.

The 1971 Wrestling Fans International Association Convention is just past. It was held in St. Louis, Mo. on August 20th, 21st, and 22nd. I have attended a couple of W.F.I.A. conventions in the past and they have always been a lot of fun and well worth the money. For information write to Mr. Don Wilson, W.F.I.A., P.O. Box 11007, St. Louis, Mo. 63135. We will have a complete report on the convention in a future issue.

One of the top tag teams in the country today is George Becker and Johnny Weaver, they also have one of the top fan clubs in their honor. I just received the latest and greatest issue from their hard-working president, Miss Pam Daniels. Inside the current 16-page bulletin are a number of pictures, including a color shot of George and Johnny. You can write to Pam at 544 Leonard Road, Norfolk, Virginia 23505.

Another hard-working young lady with a club of long standing is Vicki Moore, who has a top notch club for Mad Dog Vachon. Although a villain of the blackest degree in the ring, Mr. Vachon cooperates completely with Vicki in the club. You can get in touch with the club at 630 South 37th, Lincoln, Nebraska 68510.

Nebraska can boast of another one of the nation's top fan clubs. Miss Betty Chrastil of 1235 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, has a club for Dale Lewis. She puts out an excellent monthly bulletin entitled "All Out For Dale." Dues are only a dollar a year.

For all you Fred Blassie fans, here is a bargain you shouldn't pass up. Available for a short time only is a fine magazine devoted to Fred entitled "Fred Blassie's Foto Album." You can receive your copy by sending $.75 to Mr. Jeff Walton, % the Olympic, 1801 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles, California 90015.

If you are interested in wrestling action in Detroit and the surrounding area, the club for you is "The Michigan Scene". For two dollars a year you get six bi-monthly bulletins crammed with stories, pictures, and results You can write to the president, David Burzynski, at 8294 Olympia, Detroit, Michigan. 48213.

The oldest active club is Evelyn Davies' "Whipper Billy Watson Fan Club". You can get in touch with her at 41 West 1st, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Due to popular demand, Opal Mae Ronsciz has started her Danny Hodge club again. To get in touch with one of the best clubs going, write to P. O. Box 103, Kingfisher, Oklahoma 73750.

I am the distribution director of "Wrestling News", the number one arena magazine. If any of you readers are interested in back issues, we have a sale going on. You can get Packet A (nine issues, $4.50 value) for only $3.00. Also available at the same rate is Packet B, which contains nine different issues. Or, order both packets for only $5.00 and save $4.00 off cover price.

If you are interested in full color photographs of professional wrestlers, the man who has the largest collection in the world of these is Al Vavasseur. You can contact Lil Al by writing to him at P. O. Box 4, Port Allen, La. 70767. He will send you a price list of the many photos he has on sale.

Those who are interested in wrestling in England and Europe will do well to subscribe to Evan R. Treharne's RINGSPORT magazine. This publication has been going for twelve years now and is one of the best. You can contact Evan for full information by writing him at 5 Stockland Street, Caerphilly, Glam, United Kingdom. The price for a one year (12 issue) subscription is £1.50p. ($5).

David Maciejewski, 7842 North Link Place, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is

another wrestling photographer who has compiled a list of photos for sale. David attends all the wrestling matches in that city and has pictures of almost everyone who has appeared there in recent years.

The International Edouard Carpentier Fan Club is now headed by Rosie Macumber, 221 Jasper Drive, Security, Colorado 80911. Rose recently put out a 13-page bulletin on Ed. Write to her for complete details.

Wrestling Action Photos is the title of a Canadian organization headed by Hartley Cooper. He now has wrestling booster buttons available of many wrestlers for only $1 plus 15¢ postage and handling. Also, for free, Hartley will send you a sample photo and his photo list. You may write to Hartley at 21 Cherryhill Road, Winnipeg 17, Manitoba, Canada.

Kathy Szalewski is the president of the A.W.A. Fan Club. Her address is 1003 South 16th Street, Apt. 11, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204. Kathy has permission slips from A.W.A. promoters Wally Karbo and Dannis Hilgart. We are looking forward to receiving her first bulletin.

Gene Gordon, one of the best known wrestling photographers in the world, has individual photos from his vast collection available. You can write to Gene for details at 419 Sylvania Avenue, Charlotte, North Carolina 28206.

If any of you wish to have your club or name listed, or order back issues, you can write to James Melby, 1627 Shields Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104. I might add that it is the policy of this writer not to advertise a product or service unless I have seen an example of the work. In conclusion, I might add that we need a signed permission slip before we can honor a club for a wrestler or wrestlers.

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DORY FUNK JR.
VERNE GAGNE
BOB GEIGEL
RENE GOULET
EDDIE GRAHAM
DANNY HODGE
THE INFERNOS
TOM JONES

RONNIE ETCHISON
(Continued from page 41)

The years have passed and Ronnie has held many regional titles. In fact, he has held the Central States title so often that even he can't give you an exact count on that any more.

He has faced great world champions like Gene Kiniski, Lou Thesz, Dory Funk, Jr. and Pat O'Connor. Although he never won the world title he gave a good account of himself in those matches.

He also has held his own against some of the roughest men in wrestling. Men like Dick Murdock, Dusty Rhodes, Bob Geigel, Harley Race, and Baron von Raschke have found Etchison more than a match.

Although he has wrestled all over the world, Ronnie feels that the best place for a wrestler to work is right here in the Central United States. He says that the very best wrestlers in the world come here and so it is foolish to go out and chase them.

Ronnie wrestles most of the time out of the St. Joseph booking office working regularly on cards in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas. Earlier this year he spent several months working for LeRoy McGuirk in the Oklahoma-Mississippi-Louisiana-Texas area and had an excellent record there as well.

Ronnie is basically a scientific grappler. In fact, when he turned pro he was completely scientific in his approach to grappling. But, twenty-five years against the likes of Race, Geigel, Viking, and Spoiler have changed him. Now he is often ready to throw the first fist against a man he knows from experience will not respect the rules.

Where can Ronnie go from here? After twenty-five years you might think he is ready to retire. He's won every honor a professional wrestler could hope to get. Every one that is except for the one he has been chasing most of these twenty-five years.

Etchison still has one goal left and that is to become the World's Heavyweight Champion. He has faced Dory Funk Jr. several times in title matches and he feels that with his experience he can use the knowledge he has gained in other title fights to defeat Funk next time they are matched.

Ronnie feels that he will be the next World's Heavyweight Champion. He's felt that way for twenty-five years and the burning desire that makes him a main eventer whereever he goes is still there. After twenty-five years of hunger, Dory Funk Jr. will have to be very careful if he expects to retain the title next time he defends it against Ronnie Etchison.

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THE LISTENING POST

BY EARLE YETTER

Gene DuBois and his 710 pound Terrible Ted, the wrestling bear.

With the first issue of WRESTLING MONTHLY, our esteemed Associate Publisher, Mr. Lew Eskin, feels that the new periodical will serve as a medium that will reach a greater number of wrestling fans and followers than ever before.

While WRESTLING REVUE, our sister publication, has been distributed world wide, the purpose of WRESTLING MONTHLY will be to offer readers more information about wrestlers and wrestling than would be contained in one publication.

The writer will try to give our readers up-to-date information on wrestling as a whole and The Listening Post Column will become a regular monthly feature starting with this issue. This has been brought about by readers who have requested that The Listening Post column be made a regular monthly feature instead of bi-monthly as previously published in WRESTLING REVUE.

At this time the writer wishes to thank the many readers who have written in to make this column a regular monthly feature. The purpose of the column will be to inform our many readers of what is going on in pro wrestling in the U.S. and Canada. If that objective can be consummated then we feel that wrestling followers will accept WRESTLING MONTHLY with open hearts and minds and that pro wrestling will receive the publicity it is entitled to but which has not been forthcoming in the sports pages of Metropolitan newspapers.

The future well-being of pro wrestling depends upon newcomers entering its ranks for their livelihoods. These new faces will replace some of the veterans who have withdrawn from active mat competition or have decided to go into other business enterprises. During the current year many recruits to wrestling have made their debuts. True, some of them will fall by the wayside and will not make the grade but others who are willing to pay the price and are serious about their chosen profession will become the stars of tomorrow.

From time to time pro wrestling comes up with special attractions to augment regular programs. In this category is Gene DuBois from Quebec, Canada, who enters the ring to wrestle Terrible Ted, a 710-pound bear. Although DuBois has trained Terrible Ted, he puts on a real down-to-earth battle with the bear and tries with all his might to down the huge animal.

When Gene comes to grips with the bear he uses every trick in the book in an effort to throw him to the mat and gain a fall. The animal puts up a terrific struggle and is equal to the occasion whether he faces his master or some wrestler who has chosen to take his chances facing the bear.

The animal comes to grips with his foe and then proceeds to throw him around the ring as if he were just a match stick. He has tremendous power and DuBois says that in over 1,000 matches, no one has ever been able to pin the bear to the mat. That is what makes Gene DuBois and Terrible Ted a great attraction and the fans come out in droves to see whether one of these nights somebody will upset the animal and gain a fall over him.

One lad who is carving out quite a future for himself these days is Sweet Daddy Siki, the 240-pound dusky heavyweight who, without any attempt of bragging, is "The Sweetest Man In The Whole Universe." Siki is known for his patented "Corkscrew drop-kick" which has given him numerous victories in decisive fashion.

On occasions, opponents unload huge portions of abuse upon Siki but when Sweet Daddy feels he has taken enough he opens up with as dynamic attack as you will see anywhere today. His drop-kicks are a devasting maneuver and can dishearten the most hardy of foes.

When Sweet Daddy takes a hiatus from his ring battles, he is a singer and leader of an up-to-date rock orchestra and plays night spots from coast to coast. Whether wrestling or entertaining Siki is one of the present day's greatest attractions.

When promoters give their clients the kind of matches they want to see, SRO crowds have been the result. Promoter Vince McMahon signed the garrulous Russian, Ivan Koloff, to meet Bruno Sammartino, World Wide Wrestling Federation Champion, and a sell-out crowd was on hand to witness the great battle, last January 18th.

The rowdy Russian came up with a solid offensive against Sammartino who tried with all of his might to ward off the attacks. The crowd couldn't believe it when the dangerous Koloff pinned Sammartino's shoulders to the mat for the first time in over six years. That their idol had fallen could not be denied.

Koloff's reign as the new champion, however, was one of the shortest in the history of wrestling. Contracts were signed for Koloff to meet the handsome Puerto Rican, Pedro

Sweet Daddy Siki

Morales, who had come up with startling victories in the past year.

In an all-out offensive Morales stood toe to toe with Koloff and you could see that the Puerto Rican was ready to put up the battle of his life. When Morales attempted to draw Koloff in close, the Russian was wary and hesitated. Koloff did not fall for the trap when Morales climbed the ropes to knee-drop the advancing adversary.

When he thought he saw an opening Koloff advanced again but Morales surprised both Koloff and the crowd when he decked the Russian with a back-drop off the ropes. A crowd of 21,812 fans paid $86,885 to see the title change hands again and they gave Morales an ovation for 20 minutes. He could have become the Mayor of Fun City that night if he chose.

Morales completely captivated the blase New York fans with his victory over Koloff and the demonstration was without precedent in recent years He should be a popular champion with the fans and he is equally determined to hang on to his crown against any contenders who care to meet him. If popularity is any incentive to Morales he should keep his newly won laurels for quite some time.

In upstate New York, Promoter Pedro Martinez has been giving fans in Utica, Rochester, Troy and Binghamton as well as Buffalo some stirring matches that have been drawing great crowds. In that territory are such figures as Waldo von Erich, European champion, Johnny Powers, National Wrestling Alliance North American Champion, Kurt von Hess, Bruce Swayze, Victor Rivera, Chief White Owl, Domenic DeNuccie, Bill (Lil' Abner) Osborne, Hans Schmidt, Eric the Red, Dr. X, the Executioner, Vic Rosetani, Bobo Brazil, Pete Sanchez, and a sprinkling of newcomers.

Among the new faces are Duke Noble, a protege of Sweet Daddy Siki, Gary Fulton, Johnny Toledo, Bad Billy Coleman, Mad Dog Momberg, Ronnie Saunders, Ray Jackson, and a new importation from Syria one Javarouk who is a mad man from the time the bell rings until he hangs up a victory. In time to come this performer could make some of the fans forget The Sheik if his recent performances are any criterion of things to come.

Renovations of Buffalo War Memorial Auditorium to hold more than 15,000 spectators will draw some great crowds when the new season gets under way. During the summer Promoter Martinez has been scouting more new faces he expects to bring to New York State audiences during the new 1971-72 season.

Who is the strongest man in professional wrestling today? That is a question which comes up frequently. A couple years ago it was Paul Anderson who held that honor, but in recent years new candidates include Mighty Igor, the ever smiling Polish strong-man, and Crusher Oscar Verdu, the 280-pound battler from Bilbao, Spain. They are considered two of the strongest in pro wrestling today.

Dick (Bulldog) Brower, is another candidate for "strongest" honors who cannot be denied. In a public demonstration he lifted 520 pounds with the weights to prove his contention and certainly he should be regarded as a leading contender for the strongest man on the mat.

Haystack Calhoun, the 620-pound mastodon, is the biggest man in wrestling today and should be considered among the candidates for "strongest" honors. In public demonstrations he tosses around bales of hay with complete abandon.

Another rugged competitor who cannot be denied is Don Leo Jonathan, the Salt Lake City Mormon, who weighs 310 pounds and is the only man who has ever picked up 453-pound Haystack Muldoon and tossed him for a fall.

Others who must be regarded in the strongman class is Ivan Koloff, the rowdy Russian, and Black Jack Mulligan, the 6'7", 315-pound giant from Eagle Pass, Texas.
Texas.

It would seem that the only solution to find the strongest man in wrestling would be to hold a tournament and include any wrestlers who would want to make their bid and enter that tourament. Whether such a tourament can be arranged, well, we will just have to wait and see.

It will be the purpose of the Listening Post Column to give readers of WRESTLING MONTHLY consistent and up-to-date reports of what is going on in the realm of pro wrestling. If I have succeeded in this initial effort then you have my promise that succeeding columns will be for the future satisfaction of all of our readers.

Because of my huge volume of mail which comes from all parts of the world, readers who request answers about wrestlers or wrestling in general, must accompany their letters with a self-addressed envelope for their replies. The writer can be contacted at 138 Lockwood Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14220. So long for now. Good luck and the best of health to all of our readers.

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THE WRESTLING WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Norman H. Kietzer, President
351 Manville Road, Pleasantville, New York 10570

The Wrestling Writers Association of America had their organizational meeting on August 1st of this year in Pleasantville, New York. Over 100 writers were present or represented.

The meeting saw this new organization of wrestling journalists come into being. The first president of the organization, elected for a five-year term in order to organize the charter, was Norman Kietzer, the editor of WRESTLING MONTHLY and WRESTLING REVUE.

It was decided that all other officers would be elected at a future meeting which would be called by the president. In the meantime, a provisional charter for the organization would also be drawn up to be voted on at that next meeting.

The only other business conducted by the organization was to put itself 100% behind any effort to establish a WRESTLING HALL OF FAME. Meanwhile, the organization voted to select WRESTLING MONTHLY magazine as its official publication and to endorse the "Wall of Fame" page in WRESTLING MONTHLY as its Hall of Fame until such a time when a real shrine can be erected.

It was also decided that one professional wrestler would be selected as the first member of the WALL OF FAME.

No one will dispute their choice of Frank Gotch as the first member.

The rest of the candidates were to be selected by a vote of the fans who would use an official ballot which would be printed each month in WRESTLING MONTHLY.

This ballot would contain ten men selected by the Wrestling Writers Association of America. Each month, the man on the list who received the most votes would enter the WALL OF FAME.

Here is this month's ballot.

OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE WRESTLING WRITERS OF AMERICA

WRESTLING MONTHLY WALL OF FAME

( ) STANISLAUS ZBYSZKO
( ) GUS SONNENBERG
( ) GEORGE HACKENSCHMIDT
( ) ED "STRANGLER" LEWIS
( ) JIM LONDOS
( ) GORGEOUS GEORGE
( ) JOHN PESEK SR.
( ) JOE STECHER
( ) LeROY McGUIRK
( ) FRED BEEL

Voter's Name .....

Address .....

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WRESTLING WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
WRESTLING MONTHLY HALL OF FAME
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PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK 10570

WALL OF FAME

FRANK GOTCH
HUMBOLT, IOWA
1878 TO 1917

Frank Gotch defeated George Hackenschmidt to win the World's Heavyweight Championship in 1906. He lost and regained the title in bouts with Fred Beel that same year. In 1913 he retired from wrestling as the World Champion. Frank Gotch was the first universally recognized World Champion.

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